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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Decomposed body found

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The decomposing body of a 37-year-old man was found on the ground outside his home on Mt. Tapochau on Capital Hill last Friday afternoon.

Department of Public Safety's acting spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong said yesterday that the victim's body was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center's morgue for further investigative and preservative purposes.

"This case is pending further investigation," said Tarkong. He did

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CCC questions IPR completion

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With just 581 workers that are working right now on the third floor of a 14-floor structure, the Aug. 31, 2018, deadline of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to complete the casino resort appears difficult to meet. Unless it brings in a new contractor with lots of workers, the com-

See CCC on Page 4

'50-pct. chance CNMI will get strong storm'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

With three more months before the year ends, there is still a 50-percent chance the CNMI could get a strong tropical storm—one that has winds of 50 to 73 miles per hour, according to a meteorologist with the U.S. National Weather Service.

On the other hand, the CNMI has

See STORM on Page 4

US flies mission north of DMZ, sends message to North Korea

By ROBERT BURNS and MATTHEW PENNINGTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a show of American military might to North Korea, U.S. bombers and fighter escorts flew on Saturday to the farthest point north of the border between North and South Korea by any such American aircraft this century. The Pentagon said the mission in international airspace showed how seriously President Donald Trump takes North Korea's "reckless behavior."

"This mission is a demonstration of U.S. resolve and a clear message that the president has many military options to defeat any threat," Defense

See US on Page 4

In this image provided by the U.S. Air Force, a U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer, assigned to the 37th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, deployed from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., prepares to take off from Andersen AFB, Guam, on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017. The Pentagon says B-1B bombers from Guam and F-15 fighter escorts from Okinawa, Japan, have flown a mission in international airspace over the waters east of North Korea. The U.S. says it's the farthest north of the Demilitarized Zone that divides the Korean Peninsula that any American fighter or bomber has flown this century. AP

5 DAYS BEFORE THE END OF FISCAL YEAR 2017

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Large amounts of federal aid begin moving into Puerto Rico.

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ASIA
Thousands of protesters marked Thursday's anniversary of the Philippine martial law.

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LIFE & STYLE
A 12-year-old singing ventriloquist wins "America's Got Talent."

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Local

Navy collaboration works to grow coral in Guam

Trained volunteers from the University of Guam marine lab and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration place pools for a coral-growing project in a secure location in nearshore waters off Guam on July 14. Coral larvae were distributed over 700 cement "tiles" which were in each pool and will be transplanted to a nearby reef when they mature.

NAVFAC

Coral larvae-attracting coralline algae grows on cement tiles in salt-water pools at the University of Guam marine laboratory as part of a project to grow coral on the tiles. Experts hope the resulting coral can be used to restore reefs that have been damaged.

NOAA FISHERIES

PITI, Guam—Navy-submerged lands in Guam are being used as a test bed for a project to assess the viability of a coral nursery which, if successful, will promote the restoration of coral reefs.

Earlier this summer, a team consisting of marine biologists, scientists and trained volunteers took part in this coral-growing project.

The volunteers were from the U.S. Navy, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, Secore International, the Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans Coastal Management Program, Underwater World Guam, Aquarium of the Pacific, the University of Guam Marine Lab, and the Department of Agriculture Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources.

"This type of collaboration is intended to raise awareness about the importance of proactive coral management projects for reef restoration efforts in the waters around Guam," said Hilary Goodwin, a marine resource specialist with the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas. "Due to impacts on coral reefs such as climate change, coral bleaching, ocean acidification, overfishing, soil runoff, coral reefs are in decline worldwide."

The protection of coral reefs is extremely vital as they serve as fish habitat, Goodwin added.

In mid-July, researchers took advantage of annual coral spawning in Guam to collect gametes (reproductive cells) released by coral. The resulting larvae, from fertilized gametes, were distributed in submerged pools with racks containing a total of 2,000 pointed cement tiles. The intent was for the larvae to then seek an area—on these tiles—to attach to and grow.

Six hundred of the tiles are being housed in the UOG marine lab and two pools of 700 tiles each are in a coral nursery—a sufficiently deep, sheltered, secure area in nearshore waters conducive to the growth of the environment-sensitive larvae. As they mature, the coral will be planted on the reef, probably all within the next year.

"We're currently trying to decide whether we should test putting the corals out on the reef at different times," said NOAA fishery biologist Valerie Brown. "In the past, they've held them for almost a year before putting them out. We may try putting them out sooner. Since we have a lot of corals, we can test how long they need; that's one of the questions we could ask."

Although there are about 400 species of coral in Guam, the team focused on *Acropora surculosa*, one of the branching corals commonly found along the reef margin in Guam's fringing and barrier reefs.

The researchers have conducted similar projects with the species, so they have a sense of what to expect.

The UOG marine lab already had colonies of *Acropora surculosa* spawning in the lab, which they used when they were unable to collect gametes in rough ocean waters.

"[*Acropora* corals] are important reef-building corals," Brown said. "These are found right where the waves are breaking and in the shallow reef area down below that."

This project is the first of its kind for the Navy in Guam, and researchers said demonstrating the success of this project is vital to securing additional resources for future research and projects to protect Guam's reefs. ***(USN)***

Prospects dim for Saipan zoo's reopening

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Once a popular destination on Saipan, the Saipan Zoo was just about annihilated after Typhoon Soudelor hit the island two years ago and prospects of it reopening any time soon remains bleak.

Up to now, it is still uncertain when the CNMI's only zoo will be restored or if it will ever be open to the public again.

Saipan Zoo manager Sunny Aldan said she is sad to inform the public that the zoo is still closed more that two years after Soudelor hit and may not reopen for a while.

"The zoo is still closed and, honestly, it may not make a comeback for a while…it may take years," said Aldan.

Aldan told *Saipan Tribune* that the damage to the zoo would cost a lot to repair because of how extreme the damage was.

Aside from the cost of renovations, the cost of maintaining the zoo animals are still bleeding the family dry.

"The cost of simply feeding the animals alone is very high…it is all about passion when it comes to our animals," Aldan said.

The family continues to care for the many zoo animals that are under its care. "We are still maintaining the habitats and keeping a generous feeding schedule for each individual animal," she said.

Although the family really wants to reopen the zoo to the public, they are still far from recovery. "The animals are still here and we love them… but in terms of recovery and reopening, it truly may take a few years," said Aldan.

Although some of the animals have already died, like the monkeys, she said these animals have lived past their expected lifespan, especially since they have been in captivity for almost 17 years.

"We had majority of our animals since the 2000s and they were fully grown, so being that they lived in captivity, they grew past their normal lifespans," said Aldan.

The passing of a few of their animals saddened the zoo and its staff, but their bigger animals still remain alive and well, Aldan said

The animals that still remain at the Saipan Zoo are the African lion, the Siberian tiger, monitor lizards, and many local animals like sheep, deer, and chickens.

The Saipan Zoo was actually an extension of the Aldan family's landscaping business, Tropical Gardens Inc. It was established in the 1990s without government aid for the enjoyment of the public.

What is left of the Saipan Zoo after Soudelor is sill under the maintenance of the Aldan family. For individuals interested in supporting the zoo's recovery, feel free to contact the zoo directly through its Facebook page.

Workers' refusal of offer stumps casino operator

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Executives of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC are stumped as to why workers who worked on the Garapan casino and hotel have refused their overtures to pay them and send them home to China.

According to IPI legal counsel Charles McDonald, there are ongoing negotiations between the 37 workers and the CNMI Department of Labor on their compensation settlement.

"The workers [have] some issues with the calculations," he said, adding that IPI has been going through the calculations since Thursday last week. "[We're] hoping to resolve it soon."

The issues with calculations reportedly confused IPI, as McDonald noted that the initial calculations were based on the representations provided by the workers themselves.

"We feel that we would be able to resolve this shortly," said McDonald.

Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Juan Sablan told McDonald to "sit down and mediate" the situation before litigation is pursued against IPI.

Commissioner Justin Mangloña questioned how the workers survived over the months with no work and no money. McDonald responded that IPI has been providing humanitarian support for the workers since June 2017. He added that food and water, along with shelter and security, were provided to the workers.

Senate Gaming Committee chair Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* that he wishes for the workers to come to an agreement with IPI so the workers would return to their families soon.

"I encourage the CCC and the DOL to thoroughly vet the companies who are applying to do contracts with IPI so that we would not have a repeat of the issues we are facing," he added.

The Senate Gaming Committee was present during Thursday's CCC meeting.

The 37 workers were offered compensation by IPI after learning that the companies that hired them through a third-party subcontractor, MCC International and Beilida Overseas (CNMI) Ltd. reportedly fled the island.

The workers are demanding that they be paid for not just the work that they have done with the casino resort but also for the time that they have remained without work on Saipan.

IPI had offered to pay them the minimum wage plus overtime and a one-way ticket back to China. The workers have reportedly refused to accept the offer, deeming the amount to be too low.

Saipan Tribune previously reported that the batch prior to the 37 illegal workers received not only the backpay owed them, but also liquidated damages and compensation for their recruitment fees.

Recruitment fees reportedly varied between $3,000 and $10,000 per worker.

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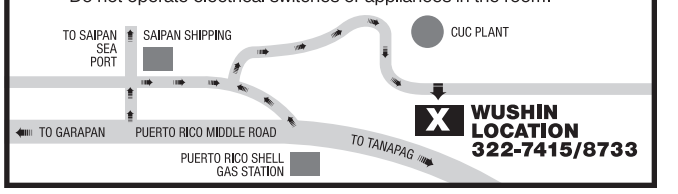

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Torres: Fiber optic cable competition is essential

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres reiterated the importance of fiber optic cable redundancy after a construction contractor damaged IT&E's fiber optic cable last Thursday, crippling the internet connectivity and some cellular services in the CNMI.

In an IT&E press release last week, the company attributed the impaired services to a damaged terrestrial fiber due to an excavation work in Guam. Both Guam and CNMI services were affected.

According to a statement from the Torres administration, the disruption in services was a "prime example" of the importance of a second fiber optic cable.

"The administration's drive for competition in the telecommunications infrastructure of our islands is aimed toward safeguarding the critical day-to-day services and activities that require access to the internet or a phone line for every resident here," said press secretary Kevin Bautista in an email.

"While this incident is not IT&E's fault, accidents may happen, and it is crucial that the government does what it can to ensure that people's lives are not challenged by that eventuality," states part of the email, which added that another fiber optic cable with redundancy will ensure that the telecommunication infrastructure remains competitive, "while being much more resilient."

In 2015, a passing typhoon damaged IT&E's fiber optic cable. Services returned to normal after roughly three weeks of repair and about $2 million in expenses.

us

From Page 1

Department spokesman Dana White said in a statement.

"North Korea's weapons program is a grave threat to the Asia-Pacific region and the entire international community. We are prepared to use the full range of military capabilities to defend the U.S. homeland and our allies," White said.

North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, has said Trump would "pay dearly" for threatening to "totally destroy" North Korea if the U.S. was forced to defend itself or its allies against a North Korean attack. Kim's foreign minister told reporters this past week that the North's response to Trump "could be the most powerful detonation of an H-bomb in the Pacific."

North Korea has said it intends to build a missile capable of striking all parts of the United States with a nuclear bomb. Trump has said he won't allow it, although the U.S. so far has not used military force to impede the North's progress.

The Pentagon said B-1B bombers from Guam, along with F-15C Eagle fighter escorts from Okinawa, Japan, flew in international airspace over waters east of North Korea on Saturday. The U.S. characterized the flights as extending farther north of the Demilitarized Zone, than any U.S. fighter or bomber had gone off the North Korean coast in the 21st century.

B-1 bombers are no longer part of the U.S. nuclear force, but they are capable of dropping large numbers of conventional bombs.

U.S. Pacific Command would not be more specific about many years it had been since U.S. bombers and fighters had flown that far north of the DMZ, but a spokesman, Navy Cmdr. Dave Benham, noted that this century "encompasses the period North Korea has been testing ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons."

At the United Nations, North Korea's foreign minister, Ri Yong Ho, said Saturday that his country's nuclear force is "to all intents and purposes, a war deterrent for putting an end to nuclear threat of the U.S. and for preventing its military invasion, and our ultimate goal is to establish the balance of power with the U.S."

He also said that Trump's depiction of Kim as "Rocket Man" makes "our rocket's visit to the entire U.S. mainland inevitable all the more."

Trump on Friday had renewed his rhetorical offensive against Kim.

"Kim Jong Un of North Korea, who is obviously a madman who doesn't mind starving or killing his people, will be tested like never before!" the president tweeted.

Trump continued the heated exchange with the North Koreans Saturday night.

He tweeted: "Just heard Foreign Minister of North Korea speak at U.N. If he echoes thoughts of Little Rocket Man, they won't be around much longer!"

On Thursday, Trump announced more economic sanctions against the impoverished and isolated country, targeting foreign companies that deal with the North.

"North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile development is a grave threat to peace and security in our world and it is unacceptable that others financially support this criminal, rogue regime," Trump said as he joined Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Moon Jae-in for a meeting in New York.

Hours later, Kim responded by saying Trump was "deranged."

In a speech last week at the United Nations, Trump had issued the warning of potential obliteration and mocked the North's young autocrat as a "Rocket Man" on a "suicide mission."

Trump's executive order expanded the Treasury Department's ability to target anyone conducting significant trade in goods, services or technology with North Korea, and to ban them from interacting with the U.S. financial system.

Trump also said China was imposing major banking sanctions, too, but there was no immediate confirmation from the North's most important trading partner.

If enforced, the Chinese action Trump described could severely impede the isolated North's ability to raise money for its missile and nuclear development. China, responsible for about 90 percent of North Korea's trade, serves as the country's conduit to the international banking system.

STORM

From Page 1

a 25-percent chance of getting a Category 1 tropical storm—one that that has winds of 74 to 95 miles per hour—for the rest of 2017, said Charles "Chip" Guard, a warning coordination meteorologist with the NWS Forecast Office Guam.

The chance of getting a Category 3 typhoon—one that has winds of 111 to 129 miles per hour or stronger—is around 15 percent or less for the rest of the year, he said.

Guard discussed the weather outlook or predictions for the rest of 2017 and early 2018 during the #liveprepared CNMI event conducted by the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management at the CNMI Operations Center on Capital Hill last week.

At the ceremony, the House of Representatives presented a commemorative resolution to Guard for his contributions to making the Commonwealth disaster-ready.

According to the resolution, introduced by Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), Guard introduced storm- and tsunami-ready programs to the CNMI.

In his typhoon predictions, Guard said that tropical cyclone activity will likely begin late in 2018, toward summer.

"We expect more tropical cyclone activity than in 2016 but not as much activity as in 2015," he said.

For Saipan and Tinian, Guard said, the islands could see a nearby tropical storm or typhoon in late September, October, November, or December.

For Rota, he said, the island could see a nearby tropical storm or typhoon in October, November, December, and early January.

Guard said the Northern Islands could get a tropical storm or weak typhoon in September or early October, but the likelihood is quickly shrinking.

He said a move toward La Nina will likely increase the sea level heights, exposing the islands to increased coastal erosion during high wave events, either from typhoons or winter storms near Japan.

Guard said when a La Nina event occurs, the storm tend to develop later in the year and west of or near the Mariana Islands.

He said the Marianas is now on El Niño-Southern Oscillation-neutral, but the Climate Prediction Center has issued a La Nina alert.

"This means we could transition into a La Nina phase by mid- to late fall," Guard said.

When an El Niño event occurs, tropical storms and typhoons begin to develop earlier in the year and farther to the east toward eastern Micronesia.

He said during El Niño events, the chance of Rota, Tinian, or Saipan getting a direct hit triples when compared to the chance during non-El Niño periods.

Guard said during an ENSO-neutral state, which is the transition state between El Niño and La Niña, the chance of getting a direct hit by a tropical storm or a typhoon is much better than during La Niña, but not as good as during El Niño.

In general, he said, the odds of Rota, Tinian, or Saipan getting a typhoon is about 1 in 7 or about every seven years.

In El Niño years, he said, the odds are 1 in 3 or about every three years.

In La Niña, he said, the odds drop to 1 in 10 or about every 10 years.

Guard said most computer models are in agreement that the CNMI will remain in an ENSO-neutral state through the summer, and then either maintain the status or trend toward a weak La Niña state by late fall.

"In this scenario, we don't get early season tropical cyclones," he said.

As for the House resolution, Guard said it's a big team effort from a lot of people behind at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Guam.

Guard also noted that CNMI HSEM has a "terrific team."

CCC

From Page 1

pany may find it difficult to meet that deadline.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission told IPI executives last week that they are skeptical about the company's ability to complete their resort casino in Garapan before the agreed deadline next year.

With only 581 workers right now, the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan appears to be facing a construction worker crisis. According to IPI executives, the resort is currently working on the third floor that is reportedly only 42-percent complete.

According to an official progress report submitted to the casino commission, the $507-million casino resort is currently 62 percent complete, with $334 million already expended.

IPI executives said this computation includes the material on-site.

Casino commission chair Juan Sablan told IPI executives during the meeting that the lack of manpower was concerning for them, especially since the upper half of IPR is "bare bones."

"We just signed the [fifth amendment of the casino license agreement], setting up a timetable for August of next year to complete [the Imperial Pacific Resort]. That is a huge undertaking. You are looking at a structure that is practically from the top bare bones. I don't think you can complete the project by August next year if you don't hire as soon as possible another major contractor to take over," Sablan told the executives.

IPI assured the commission that they are in discussion with local construction companies.

Currently, MCC International is the prime contractor for IPI.

MCC representatives reportedly fled the island after it came to light that they brought in construction workers from China as tourists and then failed to pay them properly.

"Based on what we have on our schedule, at this moment, we can tell you that we are still on target," said an IPI executive in response to Sablan.

"… If we got more manpower, then we could accelerate [the progress]," the executive added.

CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero asked the executive if he was confident that the hotel would be done before the deadline of August 2018.

"I think we can," replied the executive.

Commission vice chair Joseph Reyes questioned the reported 62-percent completion of the facility. He noted that a quick inspection of the current progress suggests otherwise.

He pointed out that the commission has yet to receive anything from Development Plan Advisory Committee. "This is, in my view, part of [the DPAC's] role on the implementation schedule," he added.

Casino commission legal counsel Mike Ernest informed the commission that the casino license agreement revision 5 omits the initial gaming facility from "having to submit to DPAC."

"It quite explicitly cut out the implementation schedules. They do not need to be submitting to the DPAC for the initial gaming facility," he said.

"Whether or not DPAC is in the picture or not, IPI is still obligated to carry through with the terms and conditions of the license agreement," said Deleon Guerrero.

BODY

From Page 1

not release the victim's name.

Saipan Tribune sources identified the victim as Allan James Boyer Dela Cruz, a son of former Veterans Affairs director Bernie Dela Cruz.

Sources said the victim was staying alone in the house; his parents are currently in the U.S. mainland.

Tarkong said that police responded on Friday at 2:14pm, to a report about a dead person at a house on Mt. Tapochau.

Tarkong said police met at the scene the witnesses who found the decomposed body. Police detectives were them summoned.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the victim was found lying on the ground outside the residence.

The body was already in the late stage of decomposition.

Tarkong said witnesses attempted the past few days to contact the victim, but he did not reply.

Tarkong said witnesses finally decided to check the victim at his residence, and discovered the decomposing body.

Dela Cruz appeared to have a police record. He was arrested last March for domestic violence for allegedly beating his girlfriend on Texas Road in Susupe.

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2017 NISSAN FRONTIER retail price $26,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 72 monthly payments of $351.82 or $162.33 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $25,323.84.
2017 NISSAN TITAN SV 4WD - 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 72 monthly payments of $742.81 or $342.84 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $53,482.32.

Garapan cleanup yields 1,080 lbs of trash

PDM Promoters volunteers, made up of 20 Saipan Awaodori members and six staff of Kinpachi Restaurant led by Misako Kamata, the restaurant's owner and director, have their picture taken after last Saturday's cleanup.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PDM Promoters hauled in a total of 1,080 lbs of trash during its monthly cleanup last Saturday at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

PDM Promoters' group of volunteers last Saturday was made up of 20 Saipan Awaodori members and six staff of Kinpachi Restaurant led by Misako Kamata, the restaurant's owner and director.

Cleanup coordinator Sonia Siwa said they were able to pick up trash inside alleys between Coral Tree Avenue, Beach Road, and American Memorial Park.

PDM Promoters' monthly cleanups are held every Saturday. It is supported by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and Division of Solid Waste Management which waives the fee for trash disposal, and T-Galleria and TSL Foundation, which enables the group to have the cleaning materials needed. Kinpachi Restaurant provides the meal and snacks for the volunteers. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-028

TANK 104 REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL POWER PLANT 1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Removal and Disposal of Tank 104 at Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan.

The project consists, of the Cutting for Disposal and Removal of Tank 104 (now empty and cleaned) together with off-site disposal of all tank materials, including its steel floor.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **90 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend both Pre-Bid and Site Visit.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-028 Removal and Disposal of Tank 104, Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 25, 2017,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 16, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Max Simian, CUC Technical Manager for Oil – via email max.simian@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-002

KAGMAN WATERLINE & BOOSTER STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

General Description: This work consists of replacing the existing Kumoi booster station and relocating it to the Chacha and Kagman Road intersection. It also includes the rehabilitation of an existing deep well, the installation of a new 6" PVC distribution, and the installation of a new 8" PVC transmission waterline along Kagman Road. It will also involve the reconnection of existing customers onto new or existing distribution lines within the project area.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 5, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend both the Pre-Bid Conference and the Site Visit.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-18-002, Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation Project,"* to the **CUC Procurement & Supply Office**, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 26, 2017** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 10, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nick Schreiner, Water-Wastewater, Engineer–via email address nick.schreiner@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-18-001

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 & 2018

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017 & 2018. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

- *OMB Circular A-133*
- *Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States*
- *Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)*
- *Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS)*

The date of contract award will be no later than November 17, 2017. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2018 (FY17) & 2019 (FY18). Auditors are responsible to review all the 2017 & 2018 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-18-001, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2017 & 2018**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **October 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 10, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. , CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Antonio Castro, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address antonio.castro@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

High court stays sanctions order against Weintraub

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has put on hold for 14 days a judge's ruling that sanctioned government lawyer Betsy Weintraub for her handling of the sexual abuse case of a retired Army reservist.

In an order last Sept. 20, Associate Justice Perry B. Inos said the high court is staying Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio's order due to the possibility of irreparable harm to Weintraub, who is an assistant attorney general.

However, Inos said, the high court will consider no additional stay unless Weintraub meet the high court's procedural requirements.

Inos said that pursuant to NMI Supreme Court rules, once a party has filed an appeal, it must first move the Superior Court for a stay of the judgment or order pending appeal unless doing so would be impracticable.

Here, Inos said, Weintraub prematurely moved for a stay pursuant to NMI Supreme Court Rule 8(a) in the Superior Court, as the notice of appeal had not been filed in this court at the time the motion for stay was filed in the Superior Court.

Because Weintraub has now filed a notice of appeal, she must either file a new motion for stay in the Superior Court pursuant to NMI Supreme Court Rule 8(a)(1); or file a motion for stay in the Supreme Court explaining why moving first in the Superior Court would be impractical, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 8(1)(2), Inos said.

Inos said if Weintraub files a motion with this court, it must conform with NMI Supreme Court Rule 27, which requires, among other things, to "state with particularity the grounds for the motion, the relief sought, and the legal argument necessary to support it."

Last Sept. 6, Associate Judge Kim-Tenorio sanctioned Weintraub with an order to donate $500 to a nonprofit organization on Saipan dedicated to helping minor victims of sexual assault.

On Sept. 19, the Office of the Attorney General and Weintraub filed a motion to stay Kim-Tenorio's order, arguing they intended to file an appeal.

At 8:39am last Sept. 20, Kim-Tenorio denied Weintraub's motion to stay. At 2:55pm that same day, Weintraub and the OAG filed their notice of appeal and an emergency motion to stay Kim-Tenorio's order.

In a written order about the sanction, Kim-Tenorio stated that Weintraub's unprofessional conduct and violations of Model Rules of Professional conduct were not isolated incidents, but occurred continuously throughout litigation in the case against Michael Murphy due to her lack of preparation and diligence.

Kim-Tenorio said the cumulative weight of Weintraub's conduct and violations has wide reach and directly affects multiple government agencies, the public, and the alleged victim and Murphy.

In the government's motion to stay, Attorney General Edward Manibusan said the appeal raises serious constitutional questions regarding the separation of powers and due process.

Most importantly, Manibusan said, Weintraub's civil rights are at stake.

Manibusan asked the trial court to stay the sanction pending appeal, saying that Weintraub faces irreparable injury if the Superior Court does not stay the proceedings, and the balance of hardships tips sharply in Weintraub's favor.

In the alternative, he asked the trial court to issue an order delaying execution of the judgment for 60 days to allow the government time to file a motion to stay before the Supreme Court and give the high court time to make a ruling.

In her order denying the government's motion to stay, Kim-Tenorio found the government's arguments not persuasive.

Kim-Tenorio said even if the government had binding legal authority or support to determine that the order to show cause hearing and orders constituted a sanction, the government's argument attempts to impede the court's inherent power to control its docket by asking probing questions during hearings.

Kim-Tenorio acknowledged that every potential rule violation is not specifically listed, but the government falls short of providing the court with binding authority mandating a specific list of all potential violations, absent context.

Kim-Tenorio said she is not persuaded by the government's argument that the imposition of a $500 sanction encumbered Weintraub's license as prohibited by the Supreme Court.

The judge said the government failed to provide any legal authority or case law to support the argument that a non-refundable donation is analogous to irreparable harm.

"Moreover, harm to Ms. Weintraub's reputation may be vindicated by a successful appeal," Kim-Tenorio pointed out.

On the issue of serious questions of law, Kim-Tenorio said the exercise of judicial discretion pursuant to Rule 48(a)'s "leave of court" requirement does not violate the doctrine of separation of powers.

Last Aug 15, Kim-Tenorio granted Weintraub's motion to dismiss without prejudice the sexual abuse charges against the 54-year-old Murphy. That means the government can refile the case in the future.

TOYS FOR TOTS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Marines receive some toys from young professionals at Pacifica Insurance Underwriters for the Toys for Tots toy drive. If you wish to donate, contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

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Fund's proposed budget for 2018 is $47.2M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Settlement Fund's proposed budget for fiscal year 2018 amounts to $47,187,880, which is $880,364 less than the 2017 tentative budget, according to Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang.

Tang also disclosed that the balance in the Settlement Fund's investment accounts for fiscal year 2017 as of Aug. 31, 2017 is $79.6 million.

The proposed expenses and balance of investment accounts were among the issues that Tang discussed in her report filed in federal court on the Settlement Fund's operations for fiscal year 2016 through the third quarter of fiscal year 2017.

Under the proposed fiscal year 2018 budget, the Fund's proposed expenses for professional fees is $945,000, compared to $797,000 for the same fees in fiscal year 2017's tentative budget—an increase of $148,000.

Tang noted that the increase is due primarily to the expected completion of the Settlement Fund's audits for fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017.

In fiscal year 2017, the Settlement Fund withdrew $7.1 million to cover benefit payments and administrative fees, Tang said, and gained $4.06 million on its investments.

"The investment portfolio for [fiscal year] 2017 outperformed the expected return of 4.6 percent by 1.87 percent," she said.

The Settlement Fund drew down $3.5 million in fiscal year 2016 and $7 million in fiscal year 2017 from its investments to cover the 75 percent benefits.

In both fiscal years, the CNMI government remitted $15.148 million and $13.515 million, respectively, to the Settlement Fund for the 25 percent benefit payments.

3 slots remain for top chef competition

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Next Top Chef Committee is currently working to fill the three remaining slots for its upcoming competition.

Last Wednesday, the committee met to discuss current updates and it was agreed to open up competition slots to independent chefs, i.e., chefs who do not work in a restaurant or a hotel.

This will be the second year that the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will be a major sponsor and host of the Next Top Chef contest.

According to HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh, the association looks forward to this event because it is exciting and has a purpose—to support the culinary arts on Saipan and to provide an opportunity for individuals who are passionate about the culinary arts to showcase their skills, while also raising funds for the Empty Vessels Ministry Foundation.

According to Cavanagh, the event will showcase 12 individuals who are passionate about their culinary work. These individuals will be competing for cash prizes, the first Next Top Chef trophy, and the title of the CNMI Next Top Chef.

Cavanagh said that six of the 12 slots have been reserved for a few of the major hotels on Saipan: Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Grandvio Resort, Mariana Resort & Spa, and Saipan World Resort. One slot is reserved for the Everest Kitchen restaurant and two slots are reserved for Northern Marianas Trades Institute students.

The competition consists of three challenge rounds: the appetizers round, the main course round, and the last round will be the desert round with elimination rounds in between. Professional chefs from Guam and Saipan will judge the challenge courses.

The funds raised from the competition will fund the many projects under the EVMF outreach programs on Tinian and Rota, the summer program, and for needy families in the Northern Marianas.

The committee is urging individuals to sign up now for the upcoming the 2017 edition of the Next Top Chef, which will be held on Nov. 9 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan Dinner Show Pavilion. Tickets are limited to 300 so interested individuals are encouraged to buy their tickets as soon as possible.

For individuals who are interested in applying for the remaining chef slots, or are just interested in being a part of the competition, visit all HANMI hotels for registrations or call the EVMF at 235-2340.

Bennett to headline film premiere

Yvonne M. Bennett, a former celebrated athlete in the CNMI, will be on-island for the premiere of the movie *Love Kennedy*, where she has a supporting role.

The movie will be screened at the Regal Theater on Nov. 26, with scheduled showings at 11am, 1pm, 3pm, and, according to a press release, possibly at 5pm.

Tickets cost $10 and the first three viewings have already been pledged for purchase, according to the release issued by Bennett's father, Ambrose Bennett.

He said, "We are now working on the last viewing for 5pm. This is an on-demand event and if you have not made your pledge to get a ticket by Sept. 30 you will be on stand-by for your seat in the last viewing."

To purchase a ticket, contact Ambrose or Lillian Bennett at 256-6602 or 286-2727 or email ambrosebennett@yahoo.com or any of the sponsors on Facebook.

Yvonne M. Bennett was named Female Athlete of the Year in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 and the winner of five gold medals and a silver medal at the Palau Micronesian Games. She is currently with Abercrombie & Fitch.

Love Kennedy is a true story about the life of Kennedy Hansen, who was later diagnosed with juvenile Batten disease. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9715 Facsimile (670)236-9702

INVITATION TO BID
(Revised, version 1)
ITB NO.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-14
SUBMISSION DATE: September 26th, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"COLOR LASER MULTIFUNCTIONAL MACHINE (Copy, print, scan, fax, email)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9715 Facsimile (670)236-9702

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-15
SUBMISSION DATE: September 26th, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SCANNING LAND MAPS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-16
(Revised, Version 1)
SUBMISSION DATE: September 26th, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TWO (2) NEW 2016–2017 VEHICLES (5 Door All Wheel Drive Utility Vehicle)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Frank M. Rabauliman
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Acting Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on ***Wednesday, October 04, 2017 at 9:30AM*** at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of September 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes

II. **PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW**
A. Project: HIMAWARI COMMERCIAL & HOTEL PROJECT
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2017-X-090
a) Project Presentation
b) Discussion & Review of Project
c) CRM Permit Application Status Determination, *Certification of Completeness*

B. Project: SAIPAN VEGAS & E-GAMING PROJECT
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2017-X-098
a) Project Presentation
b) Discussion & Review of Project
c) CRM Permit Application Status Determination, *Certification of Completeness*

III. **OTHER MATTERS**

IV. **ADJOURNMENT**
All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6824/23/22 • Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu • Website: www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 17-007
MAINTENANCE POWER SERVICES

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of Maintenance Manpower Services for the As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Monday, Aug 28th, 2017 between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., September 29, 2017, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:

/s/Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement & Property Management Office

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/PHARMACY-29

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 04, 2017 TIME: 1:00PM

"AREA 10 REFURBISHMENT, PHARMACY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT

A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 AT 8:30AM. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND TO VIEW THE SPACE AND MAY TAKE MEASUREMENTS AND ASK ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY BID, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/PHARMACY-30

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 04, 2017 TIME: 1:00PM

"OUT-PATIENT FURNISHING, PHARMACY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT

A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 AT 10:00AM. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND TO VIEW THE SPACE AND MAY TAKE MEASUREMENTS AND ASK ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Weatherization Assistance Program heads to Rota

Personnel from the Weatherization Assistance Program will be available at the Rota Mayor's Office for two days this week to help qualified residents avail of assistance.

In an announcement from the CNMI Department of Public Works, Division of Energy Office last Thursday, it said that personnel from the Weatherization Assistance Program will be on Rota this Thursday, Sept. 28, 2017, and Friday, Sept. 29, 2017, from 9am to 4pm, to provide on-site assistance regarding the application process and the program services available to qualified low-income eligible residents.

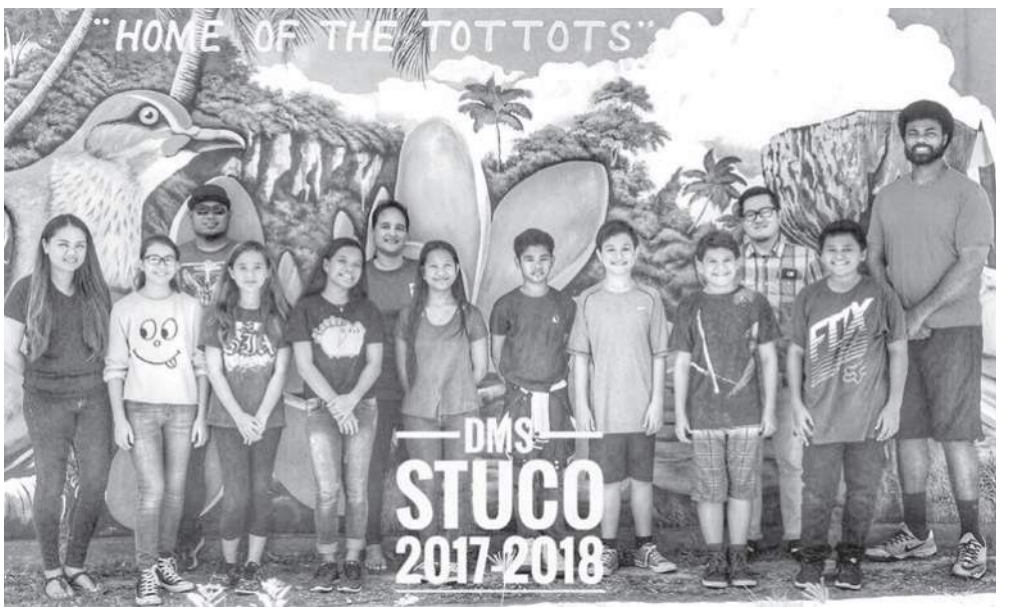
Energy director Thelma B. Inos encourages everyone in the CNMI to make their homes more energy-efficient by replacing inefficient lightings and appliances with qualified energy-efficient, Energy Star-rated products.

"With the services available, residents are able to make the necessary upgrades to improve the efficiency of their homes by replacing inefficient lightings and appliances with ones that are qualified Energy-Efficient, Energy Star-rated lightings and appliances that lower energy use to reduce high energy bills," she said.

To avail of the program services, applications are available at the Rota Mayor's Office or you may obtain an application for services by downloading a copy of an application from www.cnmienergy.com.

For additional information, you may also contact the Division of Energy Office office at 664-4480/4481 or fax 664-4483, Monday to Friday, except weekends and holidays, from 7:30am to 11:30am and from 12:30pm to 4:30pm.

Funding for these programs is made possible by the U.S. Department of Energy through a grant from the Weatherization Assistance Program. Energy Star is the government-backed symbol for energy efficiency, providing simple, credible, and unbiased information that consumers and businesses rely on to make well-informed decisions in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. ***(PR)***



NEW STUCO OFFICERS AT DMS

Dandan Middle School opened its school year 2017-2018 with a PTSA election, a full-year project lineup and voting for the year's student council. This school year's student council officers are, standing front, from left to right, Sommer Gomez as president; Maria Sablan and Juliet Inocencio as vice presidents; Tiara Cepeda as treasurer; Jovic Tuquero as secretary; Lars Anthony Wolf as historian; Jonathan Wolf as public relations officer; and Franklin Pangelinan as sergeant-at-arms.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-037

CONSULTANCY SERVICES - REPLACEMENT OF 1 ENGINE SYSTEM - SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for the Consultancy Services including procurement support, project management, engineering and design services of the Replacement of 1 Engine System (No. 8 –10 to13 MW, capacity) at CUC Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Consultant shall have a minimum of ten (10) years of verifiable experience and a track record of designing, modification and installation of diesel fuel or dual fuel power plants, among other attributes noted in the RFP documents.

The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission CPUC.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **September 19, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal and hence the attendance of the pre-proposal meeting and site visit is mandatory.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-17-037– Consultancy Services - Replacement of 1 Engine System"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 29, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 20, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. , CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Executive Director via email william.gilmore@cugov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Utility Coordinator for Power via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Department of Labor
CNMI-OSHA "FREE" On-Site Consultation Services:

Are you an employer who wants to protect your employees' safety and health, but who needs some expert assistance? Are you concerned that your business cannot afford the cost of professional help?

Call now! Good News in an Attractive Package: The Price is right!

Free – services are provided are free and supported by Federal funds.

Voluntary – Consultation services are voluntary, an employer must request service and agree to certain obligations, primarily that the employer agrees to correct all hazards found during the consultation visit within an agreed-upon time frame.

Smaller Business – Specifically designed for small and medium sized business – not more than 250 employees.

No Penalty – No citations are issued for hazards identified by the consultant, and no penalties are ever proposed

Confidentiality – Public disclosure & enforcement disclosure (consultation result not publicized or shared with OSHA enforcement). Except in situations where imminent danger or serious hazards are not corrected as agreed upon.

Full Service Consultation – Full service consultation covers all working conditions and includes assistance in establishing effective workplace safety and health programs, also may include training and education for you, supervisors, and your other employees.

Benefits – First and foremost, your increased understanding of workplace hazards and remedies will enable you to protect your workers from injury and illness.

Consultation in Action: Five (5) Steps to success

1) Requesting Assistance – Consultation starts with your request which may be telephone call, a letter, personal contact to CNMI-OSHA Office or email.
2) The opening conference
3) The Walkthrough
4) The closing conference
5) Hazard Correction After the Visit

Consultation will "NOT":

- Issue citations or propose penalties for violations of federal or states OSHA standard
- Guarantee that any workplace will "pass" a federal or state OSHA INSPECTIONS

When you request consultation service, by the completion of the process you will receive:

- An appraisal of all mechanical and environmental hazards and physical work practices;
- An appraisal of the present job safety and health program or the establishment of one;
- A conference to review findings;
- A written report of recommendations and agreements
- Training and assistance with implementing recommendations
- Follow-up by the consultant to ensure that any required corrections have been made

For more information please contact CNMI-OSHA On-Site Consultation Program at
Tel: No. 664-3156/3157, Cell: No. 287-7531
or visit our office
At Capitol Hill, 1338 Ascension Dr.
Ask for
Elaine Pangelinan
Joey Pangelinan
Or, Mariana Coates

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Still time for Trump to come up with a diplomatic North Korea solution

President Donald Trump must choose his words more carefully, lest he lead the United States down a path that could result in a military conflict that would prove disastrous.

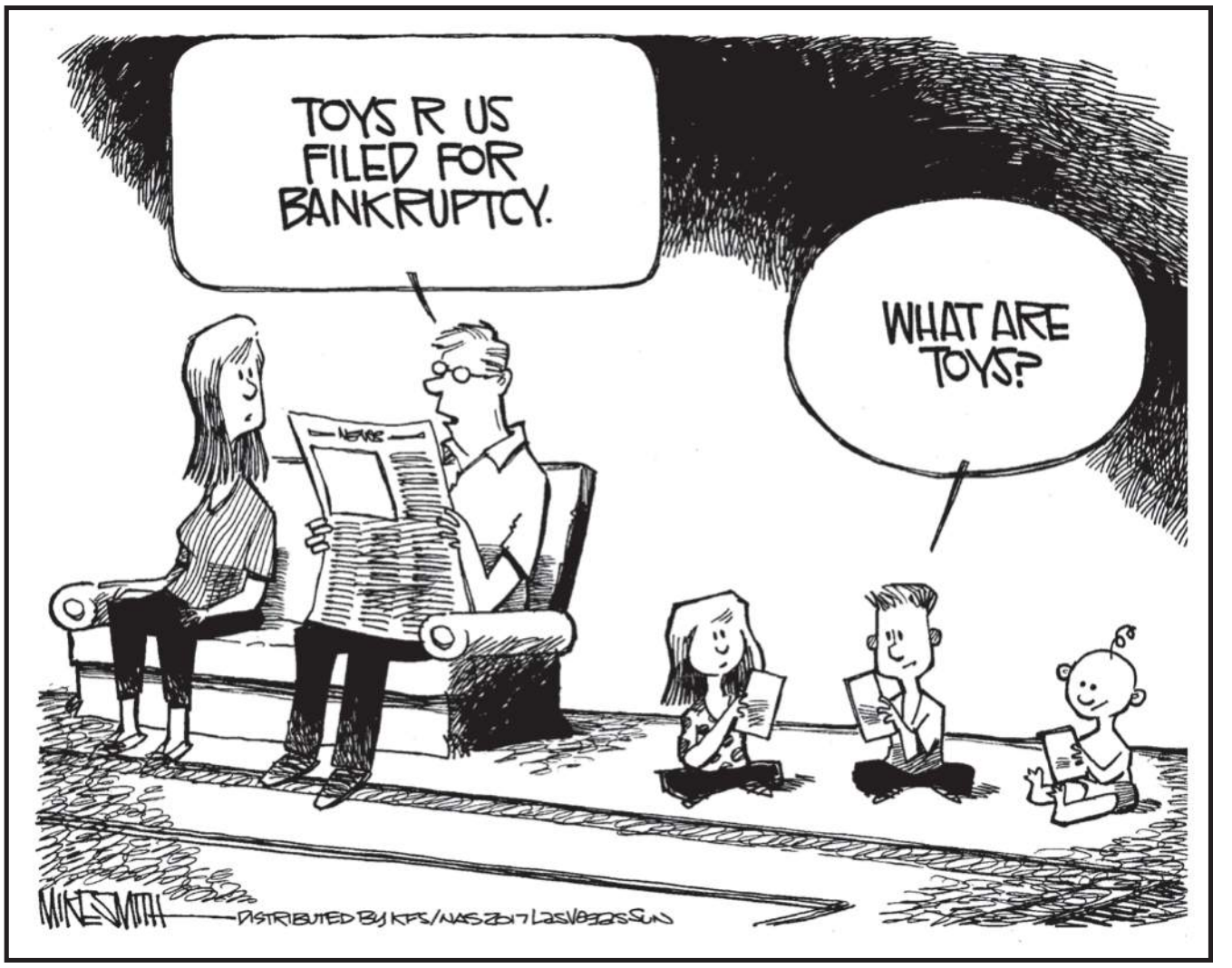
The game of chicken Trump and Korean leader Kim Jong Un have played since Trump's inauguration is likely giving military commanders in both countries serious indigestion. But the world doesn't look to North Korea for leadership. It looks, in part, to the United States. In that respect, Trump has to be better than Kim.

For all the attention given Trump's speech at the United Nations, much of it was standard fare offered up by previous administrations. There were, however, portions of the speech that were troubling. Trump said of Kim, "Rocket Man is on a suicide mission for himself and his regime." It is disturbing because it gives credence to the notion that Kim is a crazy man, ready to go to war or to launch a nuclear weapon at a moment's notice.

The reality is, North Korea has been deterred from engaging in any large-scale military action since 1953. Kim and his father, as well as his grandfather, have managed to stay in power for that long, suggesting they are rational actors and are motivated by self-interest and their own survival.

To that end, Trump has the opportunity to utilize dip-

See STILL on Next Page



I read Mark Twain's new book, it's terrific

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. *She can be reached through her website at http://www.ginabarreca.com.*

Everything you've heard about Mark Twain and me is true: I won't deny it. Twain and I have had a relationship for years.

An intimate companion in my academic work, Twain's line—"Against the assault of laughter, nothing can stand."—became my motto. As a resident of Connecticut, I have the good fortune to call myself a neighbor of Twain's and can brag about being a regular visitor to his home.

In fact, it's gone beyond that: I'm now one of the trustees of the Mark Twain House and Museum. My husband knows about it and approves. As a professor of American literature, Michael's forged quite the relationship with Mark Twain himself over the years.

Is it odd to be talking about Twain as if he were still alive? Not really—not since Twain is publishing an entirely new, never-before-seen book on Sept. 26. Not many dead authors get to aim for the bestseller list. (Look, I'm still aiming for my last book to get into paperback.)

Please understand that Twain's death was not greatly exaggerated: It's not as if Samuel Clemens (the author's real name) has been found playing billiards and smoking cigars in his restored Hartford home. What has been discovered among his papers at the University of California Berkeley, however, are notes detailing characters Twain invented for the stories he told his children before bedtime.

A keen-eyed scholar unearthed these while researching a possible paper on Twain and food. He was given the pages because they contained the word "oleomargarine."

Oleomargarine turns out to be both inedible and delicious. It's the name of the rotten little kid in "The Purloining of Prince Oleomargarine." The glorious book being published by Random House.

The new work exists because other people also have intimate relationships with Mark Twain, shockingly enough. The Caldecott medal-winning author and illustrator team of Erin and Philip Stead collaborated with Twain's ghost and brought to life the story of an innocent, humble and resilient boy named Johnny.

Johnny is destined to become as much a part of Twain lore as Tom, Huck, Jim and The Mysterious Stranger.

Initially referred to as "Our Luckless Hero" and illustrated as a child of indeterminate ethnicity, astonishing sympathy and unsurpassed compassion, by the end of the tale, Johnny emerges as (spoiler alert) triumphant.

As Michael Meyer argues in his introduction to Twain's 1869 "The Innocents Abroad," (I told you my husband had his own relationship with the author) Twain's "characteristic concern" is for the "welfare of humanity, particularly the impoverished and the disenfranchised."

That concern is at the heart of "Prince Oleomargarine."

Despite the grinding poverty and brutality of his lonely upbringing, you see, Johnny remains capable of the rarest of deeds: providing "unprovoked kindness" to others.

Twain's newest hero possesses another rare skill: the ability to communicate fluently with animals. By speaking simply and from his heart, Johnny even learns how to make himself understood by the most savage of all creatures—human beings.

Twain's signature ability to embody complexities—moral, economic and social—in straightforward terms without diminishing them is one reason this new book is clearly part of the Twain canon. As his co-author, Philip Stead's playful interaction with Twain on the page—sometimes they agree but occasionally they are at odds—intensifies the pleasure of seeing the tale emerge from the fragments.

Young readers can hear the graver notes without losing track of the plot and older readers can, like Johnny, translate meaningful ideas into tangible actions.

Speaking of tangible, there are direct benefits, as well as indirect ones, attached to "The Purloining of the Prince of Oleomargarine." As Peiter N. Roos, executive director of The Mark Twain House and Museum, says, "We are both delighted and grateful to be receiving a small share of the royalties of the book, which will help us fulfill our mission as the primary steward of Twain's legacy."

Stories from our childhood remain with us. Throughout our lives, they continue to influence us in subtle but profound ways. Ridiculing absurd rules, satirizing unjust laws and championing the idea that to be without money is not the same as being without worth, Twain's works steadfastly remain examples of great American literature.

Join me in welcoming Johnny. You'll love him.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Trump not that bad at UN

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

Take it easy, you want to advise President Donald Trump when he says in a United Nations speech that the United States is going to "totally destroy" North Korea if it attacks us or our allies. But there is something you want to add.

Don't take it as easy as presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama, who irresponsibly set us up for long-lasting intimidation, still more nuclear proliferation and the increased possibility of a nuclear holocaust down the road.

It was 23 years ago that President Bill Clinton got news that North Korea was working on nuclear weaponry. He immediately moved to get more military forces in Asia and impose tough U.N. sanctions, but former President Jimmy Carter intervened. He convinced the White House to let him have limited discussions with the North Koreans and dishonestly went beyond those limits to work out a hopelessly naive deal actually assisting the nuclear ambitions.

Clinton reluctantly said OK. President George W. Bush made no meaningful moves to toughen things up. And President Barack Obama? He endorsed a few aggressive moves that mostly went away after he was diplomatically duped. He preached "strategic patience."

So here we patient Americans stand. North Korea has bombs that could take out cities, it is flying missiles over Japan, and it very likely has or will soon have the ability to hit our mainland. Its leader is a murderous fanatic apparently convinced his regime is done for if he backs up.

In response, Trump has accomplished a lot. He has obtained some truly consequential U.N. sanctions and surprising sanctions cooperation from China. Trump himself issued an order saying we'd do financial damage to any foreign firm facilitating trade over there.

Yes, Trump's words about total destruction went way, way too far, as much as implying genocide in the minds of some. But he at least was not talking about doing this in response to mere threats, as some news outlets unbelievably and inaccurately said, but to actual attacks forcing us to defend ourselves. The underlying message was this: Take us seriously. That is important, although the best way to avoid a war that could kill hundreds of thousands of South Koreans is for China to impoverish North Korea to the point of regime collapse.

Trump also discussed the Iran deal in which we and other nations said put off developing your own nukes for a while and we will end sanctions and let you keep using nuclear power. Oh, by the way, we also said, here are billions of dollars we want to return to further enable the financing of terrorists, the testing of missiles and the building up of your military.

In his speech, Trump called this arrangement an "embarrassment," and it truly is, especially when you understand that it was largely sold on the admitted lie that we were getting cozier with Iran and could eventually expect firm friendship. The hate-mongering and evil wishes directed at us and Israel have not ceased.

Withdrawing from the deal with Iran would not work, however, because it could set off more immediate dangers. What we have lately heard from Trump is something else. As he has said since the speech, he wants to sit down for some new negotiations that could just possibly make everyone safer. Don't count this out.

Listen to the Trump speech and you may wish the wording were different and the self-contradictions weren't there. But he was correct in hitting U.N. bungling and saying nation states are a good. The globalism he's against is the mindless utopianism saying do away with sovereignty and borders. He does in fact want the U.N. to fight for the right and bring peace and harmony to the world.

STILL

From Page 10

lomatic solutions to keep North Korea in check. Some may argue the United States and the rest of the world have exhausted all diplomatic solutions. Not so, says former Secretary of State John Kerry.

In a recent appearance on MSNBC's Morning Joe, Kerry said there are fewer sanctions against North Korea, which has a nuclear weapon, than there are against Iran, which doesn't.

Unfortunately, Trump cannot do it alone.

Any new sanctions against North Korea require U.N. Security Council approval, and that means Trump must engage China to get them to go along. China did sign on to the most recent sanctions against North Korea, but if Trump wants more and to have the rest of the world siding with him, it will require diplomacy—not heavy-handed tweets.

Trump's view on sovereignty in his U.N. speech leaves much to be desired. He said, " ... we do expect all nations to uphold these two core sovereign duties, to respect the interests of their own people and rights of every other sovereign nation."

Saying this allows for despotic and authoritarian regimes to claim they're exercising a similar view of sovereignty held by Trump. As such, China could veto sanctions offered by the U.N. Security Council, with Xi Jinping arguing sanctions do not benefit the "interests" of the people of China as they are North Korea's largest trading partner.

Diplomacy is not easy. Bombast gets headlines, but it rarely produces results. Trump can avoid boxing himself into a corner and win out over North Korea using a diplomatic solution. But it will require patience and what he claims to be the best at doing—negotiation.

It is time for him to put his negotiating skills to use.

(c)2017 *The Dallas Morning News*

Running out of time

The following is premised on two things: that the CW program terminates in 2019 and that the U.S. retains indefinite control over our immigration.

The scheduled termination of the CW program will last a period of 12 months from January through December 2019. As the CW-1 visas expire, the workers and their CW=2 family members will depart the CNMI. Some may stay, some may even return with H2B visas but let's not forget that this program does have a national cap and, as evidenced by the nearly 100-percent denial rate for Guam's H2B applications, that program really is not the best option out there.

For now, the continued influx of investors and tourists primarily from China, along with the casino's spending and taxes, will continue to drive our economy. This seemingly endless supply of cash has boosted consumer confidence in the entire CNMI. New cars, shoppers everywhere, pay raises, new developments, new constructions, and more as people are blowing their expendable income.

But how long will this last? As long as the trend continues. The CW program is a federal government program and the tourists from China can flock here as long as the U.S. government's visa waiver continues to apply to the CNMI. The federal government controls our nonresident workers and our visitors. They control us.

So, what happens when the CW program draws down to zero? Well, thousands of people, both CW-1 and CW-2, will leave. These people contribute to our economy. They not only perform the broad spectrum of job categories—from the caregiver and construction to those that are performing critical work in not only the private sector but our government. Did I mention the projected as well as ongoing construction projects? And those in the casino and our hotels? These people pay taxes and perhaps, more importantly, they spend a lot of money in the CNMI. They are consumers like the rest of us.

For the record, our population numbers over 50,000. And based on the 2010 CNMI Census, there were more nonresidents than locals then and this is perhaps as true today as it was seven years ago.

Should the CNMI lose more than half of its population, the following will be inevitable. Our government's revenue collections will be slashed. Businesses will lose employees and customers and they will either reduce their cost by reducing their staff, raise their prices to make up for their revenue losses, or they may close. Remember, all businesses have a certain amount of costs for their operations. Personnel salaries, insurance, taxes, leases, import and shipping costs, the list is long and costly. Regardless, it is the remaining consumers in the CNMI who will bear the brunt of such a catastrophe.

Construction projects will slow down and cease as those workers leave. New homes, businesses and hotel projects as well as our government's many ongoing and scheduled projects will eventually stop. Tourist operations will dwindle as tourist operators are forced out. Hotels will find their operations crippled by staffing shortages and who knows, even that new casino and hotel in Garapan may face serious threats to its very survival.

In the end, as the government wakes up to a new reality, it will have to contend with how to not only pay its employees but how to fund their ever-increasing pay raises. Fiscal liability will be a hard lesson indeed. As for those in our government that knew of what can and may happen but choose to ignore it and, save for a whole lot of "kakko," do as little as possible, the word accountability will be a hard pill to swallow. So are possible layoffs, shortened workweeks, payless paydays, and even bankruptcy protection. What about the current liabilities that are ballooning in interests?

There are, of course, options on and off the table. We can continue to beg the U.S. for a continuation and expansion of the CW program. We can ask to be exempted from the H2B fiasco facing Guam. We can ask that people who have been in the CNMI a certain number of years be granted CNMI residency, a green card or even U.S. citizenship. We might even bring in workers from the U.S. to fill in the void left by our outgoing CW workers, but seriously, we all know this to be but a dream. Try being an employer for a change and you'll understand.

I think the only solution, the most viable one, is the return of our immigration control. At some point, the United States of America, our political partner for 40 years, has to come to terms with the fact that we are a self-governing entity. That we remain sovereign and our economic success, our very future, is at stake. We need continuity, we need to chart our own destiny and be afforded the opportunity to provide for a future for the generations of CNMI residents yet to be born.

So, let's ask for the return of our immigration, that the provision under U.S. Public Law 110-229 which forfeited our immigration control, be either rescinded or held in abeyance for an indefinite period of time. Should that fail, we can demand the return of our immigration control or as a last resort, we can sue the federal government. Also, the 902 provision of our Covenant with the U.S. provides a door for the addressing and resolution of key issues but to date remains unopened. Why?

We are running out of time. We are running out of options. We need true leadership that can rise up to the challenge and not only talk the talk but do whatever is necessary for these islands and their people. In the meantime, 2019 is promising an event that will indeed change all of our lives.

Anyway, anything can happen and miracles do happen on occasion. Good luck.

Noel S. Reyes
Lower Dandan, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.
▲87° ▼77°

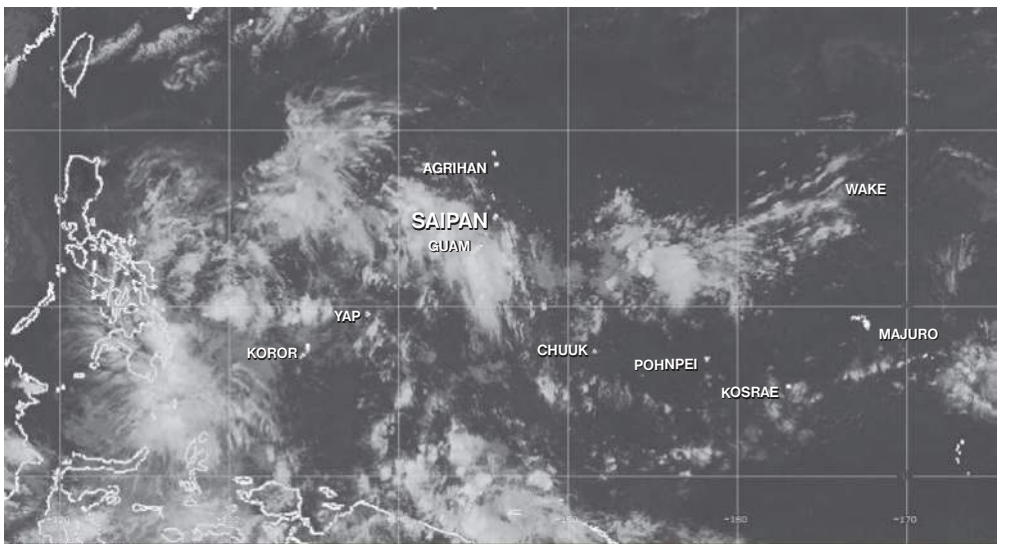
TUESDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲89° ▼78°

WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°

THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼77°

FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 11:54 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough continues to exit out of the area to the west, however, convergent southeast winds will still generate showers and thunderstorms in the area. Satellite and radar imagery show the bulk of developing showers will pass through Guam and Rota waters. Prior forecast of diminishing showers at Tinian and Saipan still looks good with most of the deep convection having moved off to the west and northwest. The evening forecast package may need to take note of further developing convection to the southeast that could sustain scattered showers well into the overnight hours. A surface ridge to the east is still expected to reach the area around Monday, bringing a short respite in showers before another trough reaches the area around Tuesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 82°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 54°
Beijing	Showers	79° / 59°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 75°
London	Rain	70° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	86° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64° / 46°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	88° / 78°
New York	Mostly Sunny	83° / 70°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	70° / 52°
Busan	Showers	79° / 70°
Rome	Sunny	75° / 55°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	89° / 65°
San Francisco	Sunny	76° / 59°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82° / 64°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	79° / 66°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	86° / 70°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:55 AM	LOW TIDE	0.21
11:16 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.68
5:15 PM	LOW TIDE	0.91
10:26 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.67

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:05 am	9:52 pm	-
Tuesday	10:54 am	10:36 pm	-
Wednesday	11:43 am	11:22 pm	-
Thursday	12:32 pm	-	-
Friday	-	12:09 am	1:20 pm

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

THROUGH LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

CNMI to get $75,044 for parks and outdoor recreation

WASHINGTON—A total of $75,044 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is funded through offshore oil and gas leasing, will be given to the Northern Mariana Islands for outdoor recreation and conservation projects.

This was part of $94.3 million distributed across all 50 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. Guam will get $75,130, American Samoa $75,045, Puerto Rico $1,308,821, and the U.S. Virgin Islands$75,087.

» Grants invest in state and local parks using earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing

These funds are awarded through federal matching grants that leverage public and private investment in America's state and local public parks.

"The Land and Water Conservation Fund state grant program has been a resounding success that makes physical investments in our communities," said Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Friday. "From Detroit, Michigan, to Saipan… the program benefits citizens across the nation by helping state and local governments make infrastructure investments in urban, suburban, and rural parks. By advancing the [Trump] administration's offshore energy goals, we will be able to generate more revenue for the fund to improve conservation and recreation opportunities for generations to come."

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was established by Congress in 1965 to ensure access to outdoor recreation resources for present and future generations.

The funds enable state and local governments to improve existing parks and other recreation areas in their communities through rehabilitation and upgrade projects.

These funds are also used to create new parks in places that have none and to develop and expand trail systems that link communities and add recreation opportunities.

"As leading providers of parks and natural areas for outdoor recreation, counties welcome the Department of the Interior's investments in local communities through the Land and Water Conservation Fund," said National Association of Counties executive director Matthew Chase. "These matching grants help counties maintain open spaces that contribute to vibrant communities across the country."

"Having access to a local park is part of what makes a city a great place to live, work and play," said Clarence E. Anthony, CEO and executive director of the National League of Cities. "The Land and Water Conservation Fund plays an invaluable role in helping cities create and improve parks, open space and outdoor recreation opportunities. The fund also protects our wetlands, refuges and wildlife habitats and helps cities build stronger, healthier and more resilient communities."

Since the inception of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, more than $4.1 billion has been made available to state and local governments to fund more than 42,000 projects throughout the nation.

The allocation for the State and Local Assistance grant (stateside) program is determined based on a formula set in the LWCF Act and the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/lwcf. ***(PR)***

YOUNG AUTHOR

Coloma Castro is all smiles during his book signing that was organized by first lady Diann Torres and members of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation last week during the Thursday Street Market at the Garapan Fishing Base. LDTF encourages the community to support young authors and the Language in Literacy Young Author's Program. Books are on sale for only $10. Contact LDTF at 235-5383 or visit their office in Susupe, Joeten/Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Building in Susupe Unit 211 for details.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AFTER 27 YEARS OF SERVICE

Patrol boat to be decommissioned in Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard will take the Coast Guard cutter *Assateague* out of service during a pier-side ceremony aboard Naval Base Guam this Friday.

"*Assateague*'s operational history showcases the Coast Guard's ability to carry out a diverse and important range of missions vital to the security and prosperity of our nation in remote parts of the Pacific," said Capt. Chris Chase, who leads the service's operations in the area as the commander of Coast Guard Sector Guam.

The 110-foot patrol boat will officially be decommissioned on Oct. 13 after 27 years of service as part of a service-wide recapitalization effort.

Assateague was commissioned June 15, 1990, as the 37th of 49 "Island" class patrol boats built by Bollinger Shipyards in Lockport, Louisiana. These ships have been homeported and served all over the world.

Originally stationed in Honolulu, *Assateague* transitioned to Guam. The crew's primary missions were search and rescue and law enforcement. Coast Guard cutter *Kiska* will backfill *Assateague* in Guam until new 154-foot Sentinel-class fast response cutters arrive in 2020.

"In recent years *Assateague* conducted search and rescue and law enforcement missions throughout the South Pacific. The crew supported bilateral operations by hosting foreign enforcement officers during fisheries law enforcement patrols throughout the Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of Palau. The cutter played a critical role in responding to the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor in 2015 in Saipan," said Chase. ***(USCG)***

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SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES'S CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff -v- VINCENT X. MAILMONG, Defendant

CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0069

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated September 14, 2017 by order of the Court:

/s/ Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Diomedes R. Patio Petitioner, -vs- Lorena Dela Mines Patio Respondent

FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0433T

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATIONS

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 520274 Tinian MP 96952 as soon as practical after filling your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2017.

/s/ Clerk of Court

ANTONIO L. BORJA Chairman | PATRICIA H. AGUON Vice Chairwoman | JESUSA C. ATALIG Secretary | JONITA SN. PAULINO Treasurer | BOARD MEMBER Vacant

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
PO Box 520059 • San Jose Village • Tinian, MP 96952
Phone (670) 433-2200 • Fax (670) 433-1819
Email: tinianscholarship@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at the Northern Marianas College, Tinian campus, building B (room E) in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes August 18, 2017

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS[1]

III. NEW BUSINESS
1. Applicant Review

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTER
V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION[2]
VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Antonio L. Borja
Chairman[1]

[1] We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

TO AGRIPINA I. GIODA AND MICHAEL J. GIODA:

You are in default in your Grant conversion Agreement dated January 14, 2011, secured by a Real Estate Mortgage of July 13, 2005, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot no. 011 G 264, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 750 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 06 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4414, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Date and amount of Grant conversion Agreement and Mortgage:
Grant conversion Agreement dated January 14, 2011;
Mortgage dated July 13, 2005; $42,324.19

(c)	Amount due for principal:	$42,324.19
(d)	Amount due for interest:	-0-
(e)	Daily accruing interest:	-0-
(f)	Late charges	-0-

If the principal, interest, and late charges $42,324.19, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees in the amount of $500.00, are not paid within (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30)-day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicates above.

This notice is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Ti un komple I kontratan debimu (Grant Conversion Agreement) ni un fitma gi Enero dia 14, 2011, ni afabobot I Real Estate Mortgage ma asegurao I tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fotma yan un entrega I empena (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empeneň (mortgaged):

Sito numiro 011 G 264 ni gaigi gi Kagman III, Saipan, Note Marianas, ni ha konsiste un aria 750 kuadro metro, mas pat menus mas anok gi Dibision Tano yan Mididan Tano ofisiat Cadastral Plat numiro 011 G 06 gi Disiembre 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File numiro 93-4414, guihi I diskripsion ni ma incorporate guinin ginen I infomatsion.

(b) I kantida yan I fechan este na debi yan empepeňa:
Grant Conversion Agreement gi Enero 14, 2011;
Mortgage gi Julio 13, 2005; $42,324.19

(c)	Kantida un debi para principat:	$42, 324.19
(d)	Kantida un debi para interes:	-0-
(e)	Interes kada dia:	-0-
(f)	Apas pot atrasao (late charges)	-0-

Yangin ti un apasi I kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) $42,324.19 yan I resanable na apas abugado pot $500.00 gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di I fecha ni un resibe este na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple I kontratamu (default), ya siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma bendi I propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeňa guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halon trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-ňa pot I apudera sino komo I pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apudera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este I trenta (30) dias siklo man infofoftma hao pot I apudera sino komo I pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta informasion pot I dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi I kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe I kata-mu gi halon trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'i hao I na'an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na notisia para u ma na'kesiňa ma rikohi I dibi mu. Masega hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siňa bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

/s/
MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ
Attorney at Law

Island Snapshots

ROTA GUEST HOUSE CLEANUP

The Corporate Social Responsibility of Imperial Pacific International conducts an extensive cleanup and beautification work on the Rota Guest House, an aging government facility built to serve as temporary living quarters for the island's residents availing of Saipan's medical and other services. Here, members of the CSR team apply a fresh coat of paint to the Rota Guest House.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

At the request of the Rota Legislative Delegation, the Corporate Social Responsibility program of Imperial Pacific International initiated much-needed work on the Rota Guest House that included painting and grass cutting of the Navy Hill facility.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A brighter and fresher looking Rota Guest House.

BOE MEETING

BEA CABRERA

Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero, second from left, seated, complains about the non-allocation of 25 percent of the CNMI government's budget to the Public School System, as based on a constitutional mandate. "Their [Legislature's] silence speaks volume that they are not really committed to PSS," Guerrero said.

MOU SIGNING

From left, Customs and Border Protection director for the CNMI Robert Havens, Imperial Pacific International senior vice president for food and beverage Lucy Guo, IPI SVP for marketing Tao Xing, Area Port Director CBP Honolulu Bruce Murley, IPI Director-Mass Marketing & Public Affairs David Largent, and IPI-AVP for Logistics John Cepeda. Seated, from left, are Brian Humphrey, director of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and DonalddBrowne, SVP-Operations, IPI, after the signing of a memorandum of understanding on Thursday at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

BEA CABRERA

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter, second from left, Carolinian Affairs executive assistant John Tagabuel, and Indigenous Affairs resident executive Roman Tudela pose with their signed memorandum of agreement during the signing of the agreement last Monday.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

NEXT TOP CHEF PREPARATIONS

The 2017 Next Top Chef committee members pose for a photo last Wednesday during a meeting at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

NEW SHEFA BOARD MEMBER

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, left, swears in Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board member Ursula Lifoifoi-Aldan last Thursday at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Business

Trump trying to turn around GOP holdouts on health bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Unwilling to concede defeat on a bedrock GOP promise, President Donald Trump on Saturday tried to sway two Republican holdouts on the party's last-ditch health care hope while clawing at his nemesis who again has brought the "Obamacare" repeal-and-replace effort to the brink of failure.

Trump appealed to Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a possible "no" vote, to swing around for the sake of Alaskans up in arms over high insurance costs, and suggested that Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul might reverse his stated opposition "for the good of the Party!"

Arizona Sen. John McCain, whose announcement Friday that he would not vote for the proposal seemingly scuttled efforts to revive the repeal, came under renewed criticism from the White House. It was the second time in three months that McCain, at 81 in the twilight of a remarkable career and battling brain cancer, had emerged as the destroyer of his party's signature and yearslong pledge to voters on health care.

"He campaigned on Repeal & Replace. Let Arizona down!" Trump tweeted. He jabbed at the senator with another tweet later in the day: "Democrats are laughingly saying that McCain had a "moment of courage." Tell that to the people of Arizona who were deceived. 116% increase!"

The effort to rally support for the bill took another hit Saturday when the nation's doctors, hospitals and health insurance plans unified in opposition to it. In a joint statement, major groups such as the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, America's Health Insurance Plans and the BlueCross BlueShield Association called on the Senate to reject the bill and said, "Health care is too important to get wrong."

With Senate Democrats unanimously opposed, two is the exact number of GOP votes that Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., can afford to lose. McCain and Paul are in the "no" column, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, is leaning against the bill and Murkowksi is also a possible "no."

But Trump isn't letting go, as seen by his series of tweets while he spends the weekend at his New Jersey golf club.

Aiming at Murkowski, Trump cited increases in premiums and other costs in Alaska under the Affordable Care Act. "Deductibles high, people angry! Lisa M comes through," he wrote.

Trump, without offering support for his assertion about former presidential rival Paul, said: "I know Rand Paul and I think he may find a way to get there for the good of the Party!"

But there was no doubt where Trump stood on McCain.

"John McCain never had any intention of voting for this Bill," Trump said. The measure was co-written by South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, McCain's closest Senate ally, and Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La.

"McCain let his best friend L.G. down!" Trump said, adding that the health bill was "great for Arizona."

McCain, in explaining that he could not "in good conscience" vote for the legislation, said both parties "could do better working together" but hadn't "really tried." He also he could not support the measure "without knowing how much it will cost, how it will affect insurance premiums, and how many people will be helped or hurt by it."

His opposition all but ensured a major setback for Trump and McConnell, and appeared likely to deepen rifts between congressional Republicans and a president who has begun making deals with Democrats out of frustration with his own party's failure to turn proposals into laws.

China imposes limit on oil supply to N. Korea

BEIJING (AP)—China announced Saturday that it will limit energy supplies to North Korea and stop buying its textiles under U.N. sanctions imposed over its nuclear and missile development, further reducing support from Pyongyang's last ally.

Exports of refined petroleum to the North will be limited to 2 million barrels per year, effective Jan. 1, the Commerce Ministry said. Sales of liquefied natural gas are banned outright.

North Korea depends on China for almost all its oil and gas but estimates of its consumption are low, leaving it unclear how Beijing's new limit will affect them. The restrictions announced Saturday do not apply to crude oil, which makes up the biggest share of energy exports to the North.

China also will ban textile imports from the North, the ministry said. Textiles are believed to be the North's biggest source of foreign revenue following rounds of U.N. sanctions under which Beijing cut off purchases of coal, iron ore, seafood and other goods.

China accounts for some 90 percent of the North's trade, making its cooperation critical to efforts to derail Pyongyang's nuclear and missile development.

Chinese leaders were long the North's diplomatic protectors but express increasing frustration with the government of Kim Jong Un. They support the latest U.N. Security Council sanctions but are reluctant to push Pyongyang too hard for fear Kim's government might collapse. They also argue against doing anything that might hurt ordinary North Koreans.

Chinese officials complain their country bears the cost of enforcing sanctions, which have hurt businesses in its northeast that trade with the North.

The U.N. Security Council voted Sept. 11 to limit fuel supplies and ban the North's textile exports. China, one of five permanent council members with power to veto U.N. action, agreed to the measure after the United States toned down a proposal for a complete oil embargo.

Petroleum exports for use in the North's ballistic missile program or other activities banned by U.N. sanctions also are prohibited, the Commerce Ministry said.

The U.S. government's Energy Information Agency estimates the North's 2016 daily imports from China at 15,000 barrels of crude oil and 6,000 barrels of refined products. That would be the equivalent of almost 5.5 million barrels of crude and 2.2 million barrels of refined products for the full year.

North Korea has abundant coal but depends almost entirely on imports for oil and gas.

North Korean textile exports in 2016 totaled $750 million, according to South Korea's Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency. It said nearly 80 percent went to China.

Nation

Aid begins to flow to hurricane-hit Puerto Rico

AP

A couple sits in their home in El Negro, Puerto Rico on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017, a day after the impact of Hurricane Maria.

GUAJATACA, Puerto Rico (AP)—Large amounts of federal aid began moving into Puerto Rico on Saturday, welcomed by local officials who praised the Trump administration's response but called for the emergency loosening of rules long blamed for condemning the U.S. territory to second-class status.

In northwest Puerto Rico, people began returning to their homes after a spillway eased pressure on a dam that cracked after more than a foot of rain fell in the wake of the hurricane.

The opening of the island's main port in the capital allowed 11 ships to bring in 1.6 million gallons of water, 23,000 cots, dozens of generators and food. Dozens more shipments are expected in upcoming days.

The federal aid effort is racing to stem a growing humanitarian crisis in towns left without fresh water, fuel, electricity or phone service. Officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is in charge of the relief effort, said they would take satellite phones to all of Puerto Rico's towns and cities, more than half of which were cut off following Maria's devastating crossing of Puerto Rico on Wednesday.

The island's infrastructure was in sorry shape long before Maria struck. A $73 billion debt crisis has left agencies like the state power company broke. As a result the power company abandoned most basic maintenance in recent years, leaving the island subject to regular blackouts.

A federal control board overseeing Puerto Rico's finances authorized up to $1 billion in local funds to be used for hurricane response, but Gov. Ricardo Rossello said he would ask for more.

"We're going to request waivers and other mechanisms so Puerto Rico can respond to this crisis," he said. "Puerto Rico will practically collect no taxes in the next month."

U.S. Rep. Nydia Velazquez of New York said she will request a one-year waiver from the Jones Act, a federal law blamed for driving up prices on Puerto Rico by requiring cargo shipments there to move only on U.S. vessels as a means of supporting the U.S. maritime industry.

"We will use all our resources," Velazquez said. "We need to make Puerto Rico whole again. These are American citizens."

A group of anxious mayors arrived in the capital to meet with Rossello to present a long list of items they urgently need. The north coastal town of Manati had run out of fuel and fresh water, Mayor Jose Sanchez Gonzalez said.

"Hysteria is starting to spread. The hospital is about to collapse. It's at capacity," he said, crying. "We need someone to help us immediately."

The death toll from Maria in Puerto Rico was at least 10, including two police officers who drowned in floodwaters in the western town of Aguada. That number was expected to climb as officials from remote towns continued to check in with officials in San Juan.

Authorities in the town of Vega Alta on the north coast said they had been unable to reach an entire neighborhood called Fatima, and were particularly worried about residents of a nursing home.

"I need to get there today," Mayor Oscar Santiago told The Associated Press. "Not tomorrow, today."

Rossello said Maria would clearly cost more than the last major storm to wallop the island, Hurricane George in September 1998. "This is without a doubt the biggest catastrophe in modern history for Puerto Rico," he said.

Rossello and other officials praised the federal government for planning its response in detail before the storm hit, a contrast with what Puerto Rico has long seen as the neglect of 3.4 million Americans living in a territory without a vote in Congress or the electoral college.

"This is the first time we get this type of federal coordination," said Resident Commission Jenniffer Gonzalez, Puerto Rico's non-voting representative in Washington.

A dam upstream of the towns of Quebradillas and Isabela in northwest Puerto Rico was cracked but had not burst by Saturday night as water continued to pour out of rain-swollen Lake Guajataca. Federal officials said Friday that 70,000 people, the number who live in the surrounding area, would have to be evacuated. But Javier Jimenez, mayor of the nearby town of San Sebastian, said he believed the number was far smaller.

Secretary of Public Affairs Ramon Rosario said about 300 families were in harm's way.

Asia

Filipino protesters slam martial law, killings under Duterte

AP

Hundreds of protesters march towards a Manila park for a huge rally to call for an end to the killings in the so-called war on drugs of President Rodrigo Duterte and his alleged "tyrannical rule" of the country Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017 in Manila, Philippines.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Thousands of protesters marked Thursday's anniversary of the 1972 declaration of martial law by late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos with an outcry against what they say are the current president's authoritarian tendencies and his bloody crackdown on illegal drugs.

Hundreds of riot police were deployed to secure the marches and rallies, among the largest against President Rodrigo Duterte since he took power last year, although a new survey by the Washington-based Pew Research Center showed the president and his anti-drug campaign are widely popular in the Philippines.

Pro-Duterte followers also staged rallies in Manila. The rival demonstrations reflected deepening divisions sparked largely by the president's brutal anti-crime style.

Duterte warned he will use force or expand nationwide his declaration of martial law in the country's south if the anti-government protesters threatened public order. In May, he placed the southern third of the largely Roman Catholic nation under martial law to deal with a siege by pro-Islamic State group militants in southern Marawi city that has dragged on for nearly four months.

Marcos' martial law era, which ended in 1981, was marked by massive human rights violations and muzzling of civil liberties.

"This is the worst administration I have seen," Marina Maulawin, a 74-year-old retired teacher, said of Duterte's presidency. "He's like a madman," she said at the main opposition rally.

A Catholic nun, Sister Mary John Mananzan, expressed relief that more people were starting to stand up against government abuses. "I am happy that we are all here because I can see that just as fear is infectious, courage is also infectious," she said on stage at the opposition rally.

The left-wing group Karapatan accused Duterte of using "narratives and tactics straight out of Marcos's playbook of repression, repeating and justifying rights violations, with increasing frequency and intensity."

Freddie Olase, a 53-year-old driver, joined a few thousand Duterte supporters in a rally in a square beside the popular Quiapo Catholic church.

"What we need is an iron fist," Olase said, expressing support for Duterte's anti-drug campaign. "I now feel safer when going home in our community and my grandchildren can play outside the house even at night."

Duterte warned protesters not to break the law. "I will not hesitate to use force even if it would mean my downfall as president of this country, remember that," Duterte said Friday on state TV.

Waving red flags and carrying placards that read "Stop the Killings," left-wing groups gathered in three areas of Manila, including a bridge leading to the presidential palace. They assembled later at a park by Manila Bay for the main protest.

Another group of protesters staged a separate rally at the Commission on Human Rights, which has been repeatedly denounced by Duterte for raising an alarm over his campaign against illegal drugs that has left thousands of suspects dead.

Duterte's allies in the House of Representatives initially voted to reduce the commission's annual budget to 1,000 pesos ($20) but reconsidered the decision late Wednesday amid an outcry and after the human rights chief met congressional leaders.

U.S. and European Union officials, along with the United Nations and human rights groups, have expressed alarm over Duterte's anti-drug campaign, sparking expletives-laden outbursts from the president. The unorthodox president, however, has remained popular in his crime-weary country, helped by his common-guy demeanor and populist rhetoric.

Duterte said Wednesday he has ordered law enforcers to kill his own children, two of whom serve as mayor and vice mayor of his southern home city, if they're found to be involved in illegal drugs.

"You can just kill them so the people can't say anything," Duterte said.

The Pew Research Center survey released Thursday showed Duterte and his campaign against illegal drugs are supported by most Filipinos, with 86 percent having a favorable view of Duterte and 78 percent supporting his handling of the drug problem.

"Despite international concerns leveled by various governments regarding Duterte's controversial clashes with drug cartels and potential human rights violations, the Filipino leader and his policies are widely popular," Pew said.

It said face-to-face interviews of 1,000 adult Filipinos were conducted between Feb. 26 and May 8 in the nationwide survey, which had a margin of error of 4.3 percentage points.

Duterte says he became local millionaire due to inheritance

DAVAO, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president says he became a local millionaire at a young age due to inheritance and reiterated he has no unexplained wealth as alleged by his leading critic, who questioned his claim that he was born into an impoverished family.

President Rodrigo Duterte gave some details of his personal assets at a dinner with journalists Friday in his southern home city of Davao, repeating a pledge to immediately resign if anybody can prove that he has questionable wealth concealed in bank accounts.

Duterte said his parents owned land in Davao where a profitable ice plant stood, and that he and his siblings divided the family assets after his father, a former Davao provincial governor, died in 1968. Duterte mentioned without elaborating that his family then was also involved in logging.

He said he suggested that the inherited landholdings be sold due to squabbling among the Duterte siblings.

"When we divided, we had our first millions already," Duterte said. "Long ago, I was just a student, fourth year. I already had about 3 million (pesos, or $59,000)."

Duterte mentioned a local bank, now closed, where he said he had cash deposits years ago, adding that his critics could still check the records of that bank. "If you want to really to trace my money, start from there," he said.

All his remaining landholdings are now in the name of his children, Duterte said. He added that he currently has only about 500,000 pesos ($9,800) in the bank, but did not provide other specific details of his other properties. His last public assets declaration put his worth at more than 27 million pesos ($529,000) as of December last year.

Asia learns to live with Trump rhetoric, but unease remains

TOKYO (AP)—Declare China a currency manipulator? Hasn't happened. Make Japan and South Korea pay more to host U.S. troops? Hasn't happened. Unleash fire and fury on North Korea? Hasn't happened — at least not yet.

Asia is getting used to living with Donald Trump's broadsides, though it can't shrug them off completely. Many people are unnerved, but not panicked, by his latest exchange of threats with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The U.S. president dialed up the rhetoric last week at the United Nations, saying his country would "totally destroy North Korea" if forced to defend itself or its allies.

"If (German leader) Angela Merkel were U.S. president and she said those words at the U.N., then I would have been worried," said Huh Doo-won, a 38-year-old South Korean school teacher in Seoul. "But this was Trump, so I am not. Trump clearly likes to make bombastic comments to please his domestic supporters. ... It's similar to the talk about building a wall on the border with Mexico. You doubt whether his words will ever be put into action."

■■■

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea has held a large anti-U.S. rally in its capital city, backing its leader Kim Jong Un as he exchanges insult-laden threats with President Donald Trump.

A huge crowd gathered Saturday in Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square, named for the current leader's grandfather and founder of North Korea. They listened to speeches from senior officials excoriating the United States and its president.

A parade of marchers carried signs with slogans such as "decisive revenge" and "death to the American imperialists." They shouted phrases such as "total destruction," according to the Korean Central News Agency, the state news service.

The crowd included workers, officials and students, KCNA said.

■■■

Trump has followed through on at least one promise: to pull the United States out of a 12-nation trade agreement, the Trans-Pacific Partnership. But his talk of demanding more for U.S. base costs has given way to administration pledges to uphold America's commitments to defend both Japan and South Korea. His suggestion of using U.S. policy on Taiwan as leverage with China evaporated after it was roundly criticized.

Chinese and Japanese officials have generally avoided comment on Trump's combative words, while South Korea has sought to play them down. The language may have been more heated in the U.N. speech, but the thrust of his message on North Korea was unchanged, and South Korea and Japan both welcomed it.

"It was nothing more or less than what has been said before," said Du Hyeogn Cha, a visiting scholar at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul.

Others did take Trump to task for his undiplomatic language.

The Global Times, a Chinese Communist Party newspaper, wrote: "This is not what one expects from a U.S. president." A liberal South Korean newspaper, Kyunghyang Shinmun, said that Trump had insulted the U.N. by speaking like a gang leader.

World

Life, death in balance for Mexico quake survivors

MEXICO CITY (AP)—In a hospital room blocks away from where he survived 26 hours buried under the rubble of his nine-story apartment building, Jose Luis Ponce lay sedated and on a respirator, alive but with fractures to multiple bones and damage to his lungs and a kidney.

"You said you would be with me always," his daughter, Claudia Ponce, 30, told him. "Now is not the moment to leave."

■■■

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A strong new earthquake shook Mexico on Saturday, killing at least two people, toppling already damaged homes and a highway bridge, and causing new alarm in a country reeling from two even more powerful quakes that together have killed more than 400 people.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the new, magnitude 6.1 temblor was centered about 11 miles (18 kilometers) south-southeast of Matias Romero in the state of Oaxaca, which was the region most battered by a magnitude 8.1 quake on Sept. 7.

It was among thousands of aftershocks recorded in the wake of that earlier quake, which was the most powerful to hit Mexico in 32 years and killed at least 96 people.

■■■

Across town in Mexico City, 58-year-old Julieta Calderas was also clinging to life Saturday morning. Crushed by a human stampede at a popular mall during Tuesday's harrowing 7.1-magnitude quake, doctors warned the family she was essentially brain dead. Still, her niece refused to believe she might not leave the hospital alive.

"Death is a natural part of life," Rosangel Aguilar said, sitting on a concrete bench with other families outside Xoco General Hospital. "But we cannot accept it."

As rescuers dig through the remnants of 38 collapsed buildings in Mexico City, they have pulled dozens of lifeless bodies from the wreckage but numerous survivors, too. Mexico's marines, considered the nation's most elite troops, said they have recovered 102 bodies and rescued 115 people in the aftermath.

Many of those survivors are now in Mexico City hospitals with injuries ranging from fractures and bruises to severe brain injuries. After long, desperate hours and days holding out hope their loved ones would be found alive, relatives consider themselves the lucky ones. Yet for many survivors the plight ahead is long and uncertain.

"She still can't move," said Cintia Morales, 29, whose diabetic mother is believed to have suffered a heart attack during the quake. "All she can say is, 'Yes.'"

The quake's intensity

The magnitude 7.1 quake that struck Mexico on Tuesday was felt across several states. The epicenter was about 80 miles southeast of Mexico City in the state of Puebla.

Graphic: Los Angeles Times/TNS

When the ground began trembling Jose Luis Ponce was in his second-floor apartment with his 33-year-old daughter, Marisol Souza. Ponce is a retired salesman who at one point worked for 3M, the multinational manufacturing company. Souza was studying for her master's degree in business administration and had just returned from a trip to Panama.

Seven floors of concrete fell on top of them. Claudia Ponce, 30, was traveling with her family in Colombia at the time. They rushed back as quickly as possible, getting contradicting reports in the meantime on whether they were dead or alive.

At one point, Claudia Ponce heard rescuers say they believed they had detected signs of life from Souza. Later, she heard reports that both her father and sister had been pulled from the debris and were in ambulances heading to the hospital.

One day and two hours after the quake, Jose Luis Ponce was carefully removed from the mass of twisted metal and concrete. In the brief moments in which his family was able to speak with him, he told them how he'd survived: He closed a door and stood in the frame, protecting his head, though trapping his legs.

"The truth is, it was a miracle," Claudia Ponce said.

Jose Luis Ponce's daughter, Souza, was not as lucky. A search team later pulled her lifeless remains from the rubble, along with that of her dog, Max.

Now Claudia is permanently stationed at her father's bedside and in the plastic chairs in the sparse hospital's waiting room.

"The diagnosis is very conservative," she said. "They tell you it's evolving. He's still in serious condition. If not, he wouldn't be here. But I have a lot of faith."

Brenda Clement, 36, was also pulled from rubble after the earthquake. She'd gone out that day with her 3-year-old son to buy him a new pair of shoes in Jojutla, part of Morelos state, where streets were left in ruins after the quake. As the floor shook Clement rushed outside, where she was then crushed by debris from a falling house.

Rodrigo Solorzano, 35, her husband, tried calling her cellphone for an hour. When he finally got a response, the voice of a man he didn't recognized answered.

It was the person who had rescued her.

The man, whose name he still does not know, told Solorzano he'd taken his wife to the emergency room and that his son was with the Red Cross. But when Solorzano went to the Red Cross to pick up his son, the only child there was a dead boy matching his description.

Workers offered to show him the body, but he refused.

"I didn't want to identify him because that would mean losing hope he was alive," Solorzano said Saturday, recalling the wrenching ordeal.

While family members posted pictures of Solorzano's missing son on social media he went to the hospital to be with his wife. After being led to rooms with patients hospital workers thought might be his wife, one crying out in agony, another with a swollen face, he finally found her, alive but with a severely broken leg.

Doctors thought they might have to amputate but are now hoping they might be able to transfer part of her hip to her leg allowing her to walk again one day.

"My wife, thank God, has been born again," Solorzano said.

Five hours after the quake, he received more good news: Someone had seen the family's social media posts and recognized their son. He was alive and returned safely to his family, the only hint of the calamity a few scrapes on his body.

Already-jittery families of survivors at Mexico City's hospitals were shaken up again Saturday morning when a new 6.1-magnitude quake struck. As the seismic alarms blared doctors and nurses yelled at relatives to evacuate.

WORLD BRIEFS

Merkel bids for fourth term as Germans head to the polls

BERLIN (AP)—Chancellor Angela Merkel is widely expected to win a fourth term in office as Germans go to the polls—and this election is also likely to see the farthest right-wing party in 60 years, the anti-migrant Alternative for Germany, win seats in parliament. Merkel has campaigned on her record as chancellor for 12 years, emphasizing the country's record-low unemployment, strong economic growth, balanced budget and growing international importance. That's helped keep her conservative bloc well atop the polls ahead of Sunday's election over the center-left Social Democrats of challenger Martin Schulz. The latest polls have Merkel's bloc at 34 to 37 percent support, the Social Democrats with 21 to 22 percent and the Alternative for Germany, or AfD, with 10 to 13 percent support.

Saudi Arabia says it shot down ballistic missile from Yemen

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Saudi Arabia says it shot down a ballistic missile fired by Shiite rebels and their allies in Yemen during the kingdom's National Day. A statement carried early Sunday by the state-run Saudi Press Agency said the missile targeted Khamis Mushait, a city in southwestern Saudi Arabia that's home to the King Khalid Air Base. The statement says the missile "was intercepted and destroyed without any casualties" and Saudi forces later attacked the missile's launch site inside of Yemen. A Saudi-led coalition has been fighting Shiite rebels known as Houthis in Yemen since March 2015. The Houthis and their allies have access to a stockpile of Soviet-era Scud missiles and locally designed variants. The war has killed more than 10,000 civilians. The United Nations has criticized Saudi-led airstrikes for killing civilians.

Britain hopes for Brexit progress; EU leaders cautious

LONDON (AP)—Britain and the European Union are preparing to head back to the Brexit negotiating table after a speech by Prime Minister Theresa May that received a cautious welcome from the bloc's leaders.

May stressed in her Friday speech that Britain wants to keep closes ties with the bloc and offered to keep paying the EU and following its rules during a two-year transition period after the U.K.'s formal departure in March 2019.

EU leaders welcomed the constructive tone of May's speech, but called for more detail.

French President Emmanuel Macron said clarity still is needed on three big issues: the rights of European citizens affected by Brexit, the amount Britain must pay to settle its obligations to the EU, and the status of the border between Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland.

"If those three points are not clarified, then we cannot move forward on the rest," Macron said.

Negotiators are due to start a fourth round of Brexit talks in Brussels on Monday.

In a blow for May's government, credit rating agency Moody's downgraded Britain a notch to Aa2, the third-highest level, citing the country's debt burden and uncertainty about Brexit.

The agency said it was not confident Britain "will be able to secure a replacement free trade agreement with the EU which substantially mitigates the negative economic impact of Brexit."

The downgrade decision was made before May's speech. But Alastair Wilson, head of sovereign ratings at Moody's, said Saturday that nothing in the speech would have changed the decision.

Health & Fitness

Keep your family nourished during a disaster

By BARBARA QUINN
THE MONTEREY COUNTY HERALD/TNS

We never know when wea ll be faced with unexpected disasters. But one thing remains constant a our need for daily food and water. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Red Cross, our homes need a two-week store of non-perishable food and clean water for unplanned emergencies. DREAMSTIME/TNS

I still have vivid memories of helping friends who experienced heartbreaking floods in our community several years ago. One especially exhausting day of trying to salvage what we could from water-soaked lives was interrupted with the precious sight of Red Cross volunteers driving through the neighborhood offering sandwiches and beverages. It was a meal I will never forget.

We never know when we'll be faced with unexpected disasters. But one thing remains constant—our need for daily food and water. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Red Cross, our homes need a two-week store of non-perishable food and clean water for unplanned emergencies. Here's a basic list:

Water! While we can usually subsist on half our usual food intake, we can't scrimp on water. Most humans require at least 2 quarts of fluids a day just to function normally. FEMA recommends we store at least one gallon of water per person per day for cooking and other needs. A family of four, for example, would require 56 gallons for a two-week emergency. Commercially bottled water is the safest way to store your stash of this essential fluid.

Non-perishable foods that require no special preparation, refrigeration or cooking can be lifesavers during a crises, say experts. But even foods that tend not to spoil need to be kept dry and stored properly. (Think sealed, waterproof containers and cans.) Rotate foods in and out of your emergency stash before they reach their "Use by" date.

If stored in a cool, dark and dry area, these foods will keep for up to 6 months: dry milk, dried fruit, crackers, potatoes.

Use these foods within a year or by the expiration date on the package: canned meat, stews and soups, canned fruits, juices and vegetables, ready to eat cereal, peanut butter, jelly, honey, hard candy, canned nuts, vitamins.

Some foods can be properly stored for a year or more. They include canned vegetables and beans, dry pasta, white rice, bouillon, instant coffee, tea and cocoa.

In a disaster—especially when the electricity is out—eat up your food supply in order, advises FEMA. Start with any perishable food you have on hand including refrigerated foods and fresh produce. Use foods from your freezer next. When the power goes off, frozen foods will last up to two days or as long as they still contain ice crystals in their centers.

Resort to your non-perishable items last. Canned foods can be safely eaten out of the can if need be, says FEMA. Remember to pack a can opener and disposable utensils in your emergency stash.

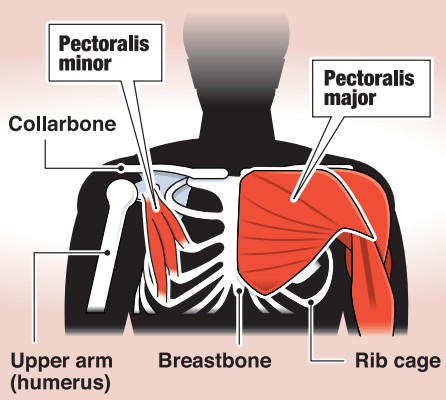
Finally, make sure you have familiar foods on hand for unexpected disasters. They truly can provide well-needed comfort during times when all else is torn away. God bless the Red Cross, Salvation Army and other volunteers who nourish us through difficult times.

Barbara Quinn is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator affiliated with Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. She is the author of "Quinn-Essential Nutrition" (Westbow Press, 2015). Email her at to barbara@quinnessentialnutrition.com.

Personal Trainer

Chest exercise to do anywhere

This static, or "isometric," exercise of the chest muscles is easy to do at work, while traveling or while sitting quietly.

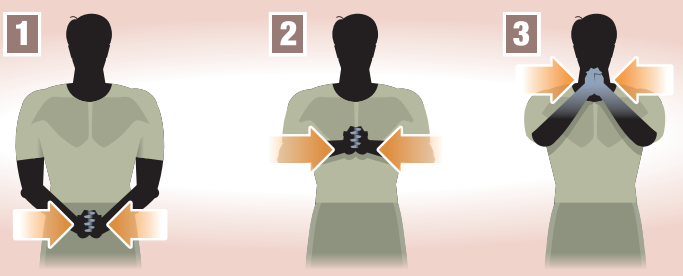


The 'pecs,' or chest muscles, work with arm and shoulder muscles to ...

... **push** against objects and ...

... **pull** objects toward chest

Cycle of isometric chest presses



1. Bend elbows; press hands together below waist; hold 5 seconds; release
2. Raise hands to level of nipples; repeat for 5 seconds
3. Raise hands a little above shoulders and repeat

Some variations

- Press hands together with wrists crossed
- Do steps 1, 2 and 3 in random order

Source: Ten Minute Tone-Ups for Dummies
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap
© 2014 MCT

How to burn more calories WALKING

WALKING: Countless numbers of doctors recommend it. Scores of studies extol its benefits. Walking is an incredibly effective exercise. It's also convenient and easily integrated into daily life. Here's how to up the ante and turn a regular walk into a challenging workout to burn extra calories, lose weight, tone up and get fit.

POSTURE Shoulders back and relaxed. Eyes looking forward and chin level. If you can't achieve good posture, for long periods, get yourself a waist trainer to start.

HEART RATE Get your heart rate up to burn more calories. Try walking at a brisk pace—as if you were late.

WEIGHT Wear a weighted vest or a backpack. Avoid hand and ankle weights.

ARM SWING Bend elbows at a 90 degree angle and swing arms forwards & back.

GLUTE SQUEEZE Squeeze glutes together as you push off with your back foot to shape and firm your butt.

HILLS Hilly terrain tones your butt and hamstrings. It also greatly boosts your caloric burn.

TOE PUSH-OFF Strike the ground with your hell. Roll forward through the arch of your foot and push from you toes.

WALKING POLES Nordic walking poles can increase calorie burning by almost 50%

ABS Pull your stomach muscles in to tone abs and burn more calories

LIFT KNEES Add Intervals: Knee lifts (bring knees towards chest) or soldier kicks (keep knees straight).

LONG STRIDES Increase your stride length to target inner and outer thigh muscles.

UNEVEN TERRAIN Walk on trails, grass, sand, gravel, snow or small rocks. This will make your muscles work harder.

SWITCH IT UP:

- Do it 1-minute intervals walking backwards. Move slowly on an even surface, clear of traffic and obstacles.
- Add short intervals: Increase your speed (walk faster, jog or sprint). Walk hills or climb stairs for several minutes to boost your calorie burn.
- Do 1-minute intervals of sideways shuffle. Left and right sides. Unusual movement is challenging and works muscles hard.

This advertorial is sponsored by
Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Tan Holdings
HEALTH IS WEALTH
Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Life & Style

German plane hijacked to Somalia in 1977 BROUGHT BACK HOME

BERLIN (AP)—A Lufthansa passenger jet that was hijacked to Somalia 40 years ago at the height of a far-left militant group's campaign against West German authorities has returned home.

The dpa news agency reported that the Boeing 737 arrived Saturday in the German city of Friedrichshafen, where it will be reassembled and displayed at the Dornier Museum.

The parts arrived aboard two freight aircraft from Brazil. The aircraft ended up in a Brazilian carrier's fleet and had been sitting decommissioned at the country's Fortaleza Airport for years.

A Palestinian group demanding the release of members of West Germany's Red Army Faction hijacked a Mallorca-to-Frankfurt flight in October 1977. The hijacking marked the peak of the "German Autumn" of leftist violence.

German commandos stormed the plane in Mogadishu, Somalia, on Oct. 18, 1977. They killed three of the four hijackers and rescued all 86 passengers.

From left: former co-pilot Juergen Vietor, former passenger Diana Muell, and former stewardess Gabriele von Lutzau stand in front of a part of Lufthansa plane 'Landshut' at the airport in Friedrichshafen, Germany, Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017. AP

Meghan Markle appears at Prince Harry's Invictus Games

TORONTO (AP) — Prince Harry's girlfriend, American actress Meghan Markle, sat in the stands for Saturday's opening ceremony of his Invictus Games for wounded veterans in her first appearance at a public event with him.

They were not sitting together at the Air Canada Centre. They were about four rows apart but Harry looked over at her when the Canadian anthem played. A security guard blocked at least one fan from taking pictures of Markle, who sat with friend Markus Anderson, a party consultant.

Markle lives in Toronto, but hadn't appeared with Harry since he arrived in the city. She recently told Vanity Fair they're in love. The 36-year-old actress was wearing a burgundy leather jacket over a dark dress. She is known for her portrayal of a paralegal in the television show "Suits."

The Invictus Games are the creation of Prince Harry, who got the inspiration to help wounded and sick military personnel and their families after his two tours of duty in Afghanistan. This is the third Invictus Games.

"I hope you are ready for some fierce competition," Harry said to the crowd and wounded athletes. "You are all winners. You are all Invictus. Let's get started."

Markle smiled broadly when Harry spoke and raised her hands to her face and laughed when he mangled a line in French. She left right after his speech.

About 550 competitors from 17 countries are slated to compete in 12 sports over the next week. U.S. First Lady Melania Trump and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also attended the opening ceremony.

Bruce Springsteen and Bryan Adams will perform at the closing ceremony next Saturday.

U.S. Master Sgt. Brian Williams, who had his left leg amputated at the knee because of an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan in 2012, said Harry is living up to the legacy of his late mother Diana with his charity work.

"He's following in his mother footsteps. Straight up," Williams said.

Williams said he has a lot of respect for Harry, a former soldier who served in Afghanistan. "He doesn't have to do this but he is," he said.

Williams was working as a dog handler during his second deployment in Afghanistan when he was severely injured while clearing a Taliban compound. Despite his injuries he has worked hard to stay on active duty. He also competed in last year's Invictus Games in Orlando and he's taking part in wheelchair basketball and sitting volleyball this year.

Canadian Melanie Harris is set to compete in bioarchery. Harris did two tours of duty in Afghanistan with the Canadian military. She would help carry bring in wounded soldiers to the medical facilities on base. She has since struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder.

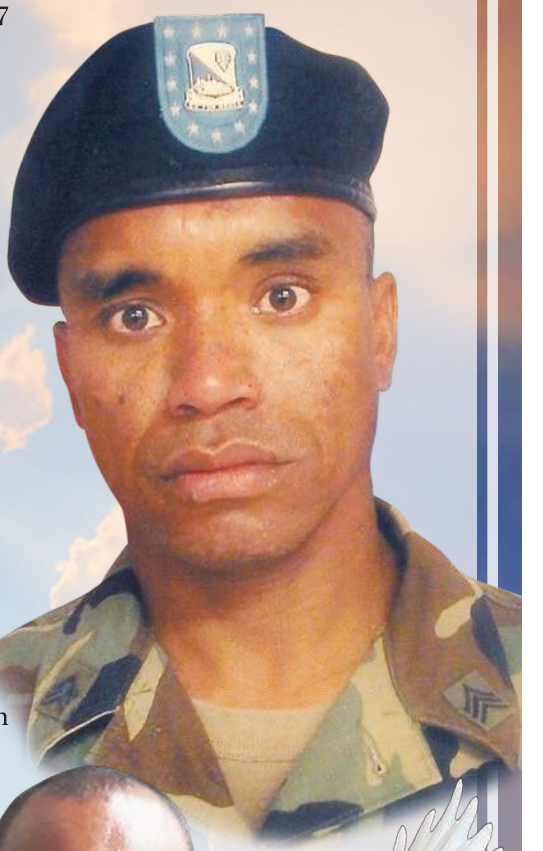
"I was living without passion, without purpose. I needed to believe in myself again and I needed to be inspired. And these Invictus Games that's what they did," Harris said.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†ALLEGRE TWELBANG MAGOFNA

LOVINGLY CALLED
"BOB"

BORN ON MAY 12, 1965, CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME
ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2017



In his new Life he now joins:

Father: †Miguel Blas Magofna
Mother: †Maria Angeles T. Magofna
Sister: †Betty Twelbang
Brother: †Ismike T. Magofna
Brothers In-Law: †Julian Rios Camacho, †Joe Jr. Gogue Charfauros
Brothers In Arms: †Wilgene Lieto, †Derence Jack, †Jeffrey V. Diaz

His memories will forever remain in the hearts of his wife Delia Salas Magofna and their children Angelah Rose Salas Magofna and Miguel Francis Salas Magofna.

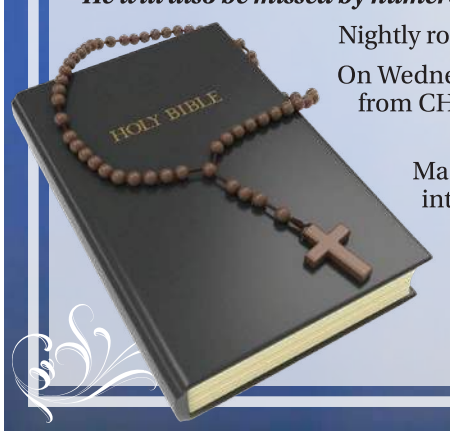
Son at Heart: ***Timothy Jacob Palacios***

Mother In-Law: Rosa Manibusan Salas
Father In-Law: Francisco Sablan Salas

Brothers, Sisters, & In-laws:
Thomasa M. & Allen Bennette, Children and Grandchildren
Carmen M. & Pedro Raquel, Children and Grandchildren
Vincent Igibara Magofna and Children
Jesusa M. & Alfredo Pua, Children and Grandchildren
Olympio I. &Merced A. Magofna, Children and Grandchildren
Olympia M. & Joaquin Borja, Children and Grandchildren
Claudio I. & Marissa Magofna, Children and Grandchildren
Claudia I. Magofna and Children
Bettina Magofna
Blas T. & Krilyn D. Magofna, Children and Grandchildren
Emmy M. & Mariano Rios, Children and Grandchildren
Salvadora P. & David Bundy, Children and Grandchildren
Brilliant T. Magofna & Rickres Kalen and Children
Jesse T. Magofna
Greg T. & Yan Che Magofna and Children
Estellita M. †Joe Jr. G. Charfauros and Children
Pina Magofna and Children
Mariana M. & Darrell Tomokane and Children
Miguel T. Magofna & Heidi Garde and Children

Sisters In-Law:
Gloria S. & Dominique S. Palacios and Children
Selma M. Salas & Kaegel T. Taitano and Children

He will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nephews, cousins, godchildren, and friends.



Nightly rosary is being prayed at 7:00 p.m. at Magofna's residence in Chalan Kiya.

On Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at 7:30 a.m., our beloved Bob will be escorted from CHCC to Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag. Responso and Holy Rosary will immediately follow upon arrival.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m., followed with interment services at Veterans Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Maase
Please join us in prayers.

Delia (Del), Children and Family

Melania Trump to UN: 'Come together' for good of children

NEW YORK (AP) — First lady Melania Trump called on world leaders Wednesday to come together for the good of their children, delivering her first public remarks at the United Nations as the White House works to strengthen its relationships abroad.

Warning that children are closely watching the example of adults, she told the spouses of world leaders that they "must teach each other the values of empathy and communication that are at the core of kindness, mindfulness, integrity and leadership."

"We must come together for the good of our children," Trump said at a luncheon at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. She added: "We must remember that they are watching and listening, so we must never miss an opportunity to teach life's many ethical lessons along the way."

Mrs. Trump said it was time to "turn our focus right now to the message and content they are exposed to on a daily basis — social media, the bullying" and more.

She spoke just days after President Donald Trump retweeted a mock video that appeared to show him whacking a golf ball that knocks down Hillary Clinton.

The first lady's head table featured the spouses of French President Emmanuel Macron, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Finnish President Sauli Niinisto, among others.

The 47-year-old first lady has played a muted role in the early months of her husband's administration. She announced plans to combat cyber bullying during the campaign, but has yet to come out with any specific policies.

In remarks that lasted less than eight minutes, Trump said children are often "hit first and hardest in any country" when it comes to drug addiction, bullying, poverty, disease, trafficking, illiteracy and hunger.

"No child should ever feel hungry, stalked, frightened, terrorized, bullied, isolated or afraid, with nowhere to turn," she said. "We need to step up, come together, and ensure that our children's future is bright."

She avoided North Korea and the more contentious foreign policy challenges facing her husband's administration.

Demi Lovato to help war-scarred children in Iraq

NEW YORK (AP) — Demi Lovato was named a Global Citizen ambassador at the organization's annual music festival Saturday, championing the mental health of thousands of children displaced within Iraq and other vulnerable communities.

Lovato

The singer and Global Citizen will fund the expansion of a Save the Children pilot program, Healing and Education through the Arts, to violence-scarred young people living in Iraq's Kirkuk and Salah al Din areas.

"Ending the stigma around mental health conditions and supporting internally displaced children to build physical and mental resilience through education and access to justice is not a choice, it needs to happen, and it needs to happen now," the singer said onstage in Central Park.

Since 2014, more than 3 million people in Iraq have been displaced within the country due to war and conflict. Carolyn Miles, president and CEO of Save the Children, told the festival crowd the organization's HEART program will allow displaced children scarred by the violence to process trauma "through drawing, painting, music and other art forms" as a way to begin healing and "rebuild their self-confidence and trust in others."

Lovato has been a strong advocate for mental health issues after sharing her own struggles with eating disorders, substance abuse and a bipolar diagnosis.

12-year-old ventriloquist wins 'America's Got Talent'

This Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2017 photo shows Darci Lynne Farmer on "America's Got Talent" in Los Angeles. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A 12-year-old singing ventriloquist is getting a $1 million prize and her own Las Vegas show after taking the "America's Got Talent" crown on the season 12 finale of the NBC reality competition.

Darci Lynne Farmer, of Oklahoma City, beat out another youngster, 10-year-old singer Angelica Hale, for the 'AGT' title Wednesday by garnering the most votes from viewers.

Farmer told The Associated Press after the show that she was "overcome with joy and luckiness." Judge Heidi Klum said the girl "is the full package," adding that "she really touched people's hearts" and "made people laugh at home."

Farmer is the third ventriloquist to win the competition. Season 2 champ Terry Fator performed a duet with Farmer on the season finale and worked with her on her scripts.

Ryan Gosling to host 'SNL' premiere with Jay-Z musical guest

NEW YORK (AP) — "Saturday Night Live" says it's kicking off its 43rd season Sept. 30 with guest host Ryan Gosling and musical guest Jay-Z.

For Gosling's encore host appearance he'll be on hand to promote his new film, "Blade Runner 2049." Jay-Z will be plugging a world tour that starts next month.

Gosling

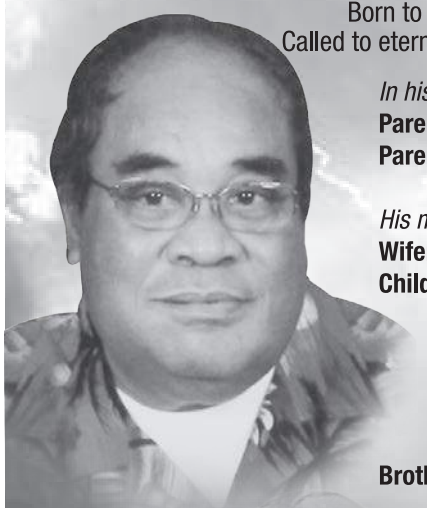
On Oct. 7, "Wonder Woman" star Gal Gadot will be guest host, with musical guest Sam Smith.

Kumail Nanjiani will host the season's third show on Oct. 14. He stars in the HBO comedy "Silicon Valley" and recently wrote and starred in the acclaimed film "The Big Sick." Pink will be musical guest.

This season NBC's "Saturday Night Live" will air live simultaneously across the U.S.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Ermias Gabriel "Jerry" Mettao Iguel



Born to life on January 21, 1959
Called to eternal rest on September 20, 2017

In his new life he now joins his:
Parents: †Pedro K. Iguel & †Antonia M. Iguel
Parents In-Law: †Isidro L. Ogarto & †Carmen R. Ogarto

His memories will be forever remembered by his:
Wife: Dionicia Elizabeth Ogarto Iguel
Children & Grandchildren:
Pedro & Jennifer Iguel
(Pedro Jr. Igharasughuscheng)
Matthew & Jiah Iguel
(Mekean Igharfa & Devin Mailap)
Antonia Ogarto Iguel
Brothers & Sisters:
†Miguel/Nieves Iguel *(Shawn & Jocelyn)*
Bernadita/Pedro Teigita *(Children & Grandchildren)*
†Luis/Marina Iguel *(Children & Grandchildren)*
Lydia Mettao Iguel
Anna/Ivann Gatbonton *(Angel Tumaliyóng)*
Brothers & Sisters In-Law:
†Edwin/Trinita Ogarto *(Children and Grandchildren)*
†Isidro/Leovinia Ogarto *(Children and Grandchildren)*
Manuel R. Ogarto
†Mariana R. Ogarto *(Children and Grandchildren)*

He is also survived by numerous relatives and friends.

Nighty rosary is held at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:00 p.m.

Viewing will be held on September 28th at 7:30 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Catheral.
Mass will begin at 11:00 a.m. followed by burial at 12:00p.m.
Lunch is provided after burial at the DaiDai Social Hall.

THANK YOU
The Family

IN LOVING MEMORY
Tita Lim Monaghan
DECEMBER 28, 1951 – AUGUST 17, 2017

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her loved ones, family and friends.

Mass of Intention on her 40 days is being offered at 6:00 p.m., Monday, September 25, 2017 at the San Antonio Parish Church

Daddy Yankee's fans fill 4 trucks with donations in NY

NEW YORK (AP) — When Daddy Yankee calls, people answer. So when the reggaeton star went on social media to ask fans to help victims of Hurricane Maria in his native Puerto Rico and the earthquake in Mexico, his fans delivered with an avalanche of donations.

Diapers, bottled water, mosquito repellent and batteries for flashlights were some of the provisions gathered on Thursday night through the initiative, which was organized in a matter of hours with the help of the Puerto Rican Family Institute, the Hispanic Federation and the National Puerto Rican Day Parade.

"I believe is a fact of life for the fortunate to help the unfortunate," the reggaeton superstar said in a statement on Friday, as he thanked his fans and volunteers for helping making this happen. "I am sure that God blesses the happy giver and those who help the ones in need."

Daddy Yankee also joined forces with the food bank Feeding America, which will bring donations to 78 municipalities in Puerto Rico, according to his Facebook page.

Daddy Yankee's publicist Manya Nevarez said he will continue his call for donations at other stops on his tour, and plans to visit Puerto Rico late next week to present some of the donations himself.

Linda Hamilton set to return to 'Terminator' franchise

Hamilton

NEW YORK (AP) — Linda Hamilton is returning to the "Terminator" franchise for the first time since 1991's "Terminator 2: Judgment Day."

"Terminator" creator James Cameron announced Hamilton's casting at a private event in Los Angeles on Tuesday night, the Hollywood Reporter reported. Paramount Pictures, which is distributing the planned sequel, confirmed the news Wednesday.

Cameron is producing the sequel, which "Deadpool" filmmaker Tim Miller is directing. Arnold Schwarzenegger is also set to return.

Cameron, who was once married to Hamilton, recently compared Wonder Woman unfavorably to Hamilton's "Terminator" character, Sarah Connor. Cameron called Gal Gadot's superhero an "objectified icon," but said Connor was defined by "pure grit."

Marc Anthony pleads for help for Puerto Rico after Maria

NEW YORK (AP) — Marc Anthony is pleading for help for Puerto Rico, which has been devastated after being pummeled by Hurricanes Maria and Irma.

Authorities say the island may be without power for at least four months following Hurricane Maria, which hit the U.S. territory with 155 mph (249 kph) winds, the strongest hurricane in over 80 years. The island was already battered by Hurricane Irma, which hit days earlier.

Anthony, a native New Yorker whose family is from Puerto Rico, urged his fans to help the island. In videos in English and Spanish posted to his social media, the singer urged people to donate to the relief efforts led by the island's first lady, Beatriz Rossello, saying, "today, Puerto Rico needs our help."

Reports say Kylie Jenner is pregnant with first child

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Is there going to be another addition to the Jenner-Kardashian clan?

Several media outlets, including TMZ and People, are reporting Friday that 20-year-old Kylie Jenner, the youngest member of the reality show family, is expecting a child with her boyfriend Travis Scott.

Reps did not confirm the pregnancy, however, and did not immediately respond to The Associated Press' request for comment.

Mendes donates $100K to Mexican earthquake relief

Shawn Mendes has launched an online fundraiser to help those affected by the Mexican earthquake just days after he escaped safely from the quake ahead of a planned show in Mexico City, an incident he called "pretty scary."

The Canadian singer-songwriter and his manager, Andrew Gertler, have gotten things started with a $100,000 donation to the fundraiser on GoFundMe's Crowdrise platform. The money will go to "directly to disaster relief in Mexico" via American Red Cross.

In an email to The Associated Press, Mendes said he was in his hotel getting ready for his show the next day when the quake hit.

"The whole building was shaking pretty severely, but we were fortunate to be somewhere that was structurally sound enough to withstand it," he wrote. "At first I didn't know what was happening, and then pretty quickly, after about 30 seconds, I clued in that it was an earthquake. Shortly after that we heard sirens and the emergency evacuation announcements from the hotel, and were able to make it down to the street safely."

"There were just so many people out on the streets trying to stay safe and that had been evacuated from buildings, and as we were walking saw quite a few buildings that had collapsed facades, windows shattering on the streets," he wrote.

The quake has reduced buildings to rubble in Mexico and left hundreds dead. Mendes said he sends his prayers to everyone effected and would love to return when he can.

Lady Gaga on being famous: 'Not all it's cracked up to be'

Lady Gaga has written an emotional message to fans to mark of the release of her new Netflix documentary.

In a note posted to Twitter on Thursday, Gaga writes that the film reveals "that fame is not all it's cracked up to be." She says fame is lonely, isolating and "very psychologically challenging" because it "changes the way you're viewed by people." She says her relationship with fame is "complicated" because she knows it's her "destiny to be a performer."

The 31-year-old calls herself "just a girl trying to become a woman, who loves to write music, to sing, to play piano, guitar, dance, perform, and act."

Her documentary, "Gaga: Five Foot Two," began streaming Friday on Netflix.

DETHRONED
In this photo taken on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017, Itir Esen, 18, smiles after being crowned as Miss Turkey 2017 in Istanbul. Organizers have stripped Miss Turkey 2017 of her crown over a social media posting that was deemed insulting to the memory of some 250 people who were killed while opposing last year's failed military coup. Miss Turkey organizers said Esen was dethroned on Friday - a day after she won the contest and the right to represent Turkey at the Miss World contest in China - over a tweet they described as "unacceptable." AP

Son jumps into online dating by asking personal questions

DEAR ABBY: My 40-year-old son signed up with an online dating site. He has a 17-year-old son and has never been married. During his initial contact with one woman, she mentioned she had several kids and my son asked if they were all by the same father. She said he was out of line to ask that question!

I realize people today think one's sexual history shouldn't matter, but doesn't my son have a right to know how many other men he's going to be involved with if he becomes involved with her? How does one find out this kind of information relatively soon into the relationship? Waiting until he knows her better seems like a waste of both parties' time if he's not interested in someone who brings several other families into the relationship.

Relationships are hard enough when a man brings his family and a woman brings her family together in the marriage. It's harder when the man and woman have exes. Each ex increases the level of difficulty to make the relationship work. Love is a choice, and it would be painful for my son to give up a young lady he really cared for because he found out after a few dates that a future with her involved four or more baby daddies.

OUT OF LINE IN ARIZONA

DEAR OUT OF LINE: Although it might be "painful" for your son to give someone up after a few dates, he should make the effort to get to know the person before asking a question like the one he posed to a complete stranger. Frankly, I don't blame her for being offended, because it implied he thought she was promiscuous.

Your son fathered a child with a woman he didn't end up marrying. It happens. What if the same thing had happened to her, but more than once? One would think that as a mature adult, if he had feelings for someone, he would continue the relationship and see where it led. And why are you the one who wrote to ask me this and not your son?

DEAR ABBY: We are all familiar with the rules of who pays for what in a wedding. Usually the bride's family pays for certain portions of the wedding and reception, while the groom's family pays for the rehearsal dinner, among other things.

But what are the rules for same-sex marriages? My daughter and her girlfriend are getting married, and I'm confused about the financial etiquette. Is everything split evenly?

MODERN DAD IN LOUISIANA

DEAR MODERN DAD: According to Steven Petrow, the LGBT etiquette author, there are few set rules about gay weddings. Your only "requirement" is to provide them with your love and support.

Many couples today, both gay and straight, foot the bill themselves. You might offer a gift to help them pay for the flowers or rehearsal dinner. However, like any responsible couple, your daughter and her intended should plan a wedding that is within their budget.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

NO LUCK? OF COURSE NOT! HOW AM I GOING TO FIND A STUFFED TIGER IN THE WOODS AT NIGHT?!
WHY CAN'T CALVIN KEEP TRACK OF HIS TOYS?! I MUST BE CRAZY TO BE OUT HERE.
HO-O-OBBES!
OOPS. HEH HEH.
I MAY BE CRAZY, BUT I'M NOT AS CRAZY AS YOU.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

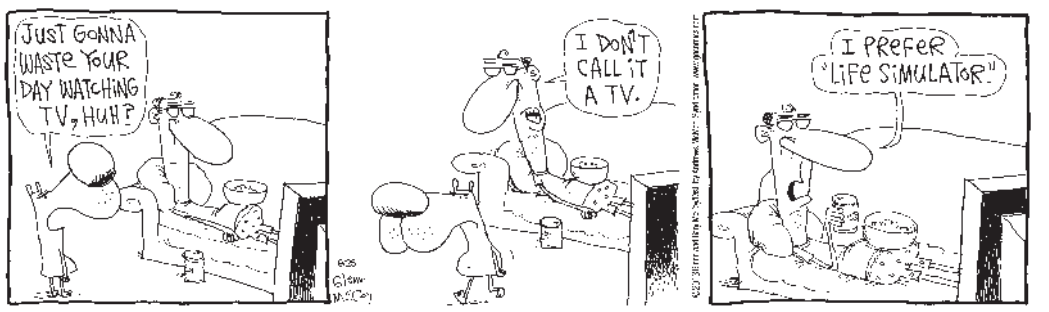
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DANG IT!!
WHAT?
MY AGENT DOESN'T LIKE THE UMMY GUMMY PICTURE BOOK.
SO? J.K. ROWLING WAS REJECTED BY 2,000 PUBLISHERS BEFORE SHE...
STOP. DON'T. NEVER TELL A WRITER THE ROWLING STORY.
AND SHE WAS RAISING 14 BABIES AND WORKING 10 JOBS!
9.25

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Secret agent
4 Nile city
9 "For shame!"
12 Call — day
13 "Peer Gynt" playwright
14 French article
15 Go back and forth
17 Predetermine
18 "Shoo!"
19 Sullies
21 Squirm
24 Shakespeare title starter
25 Altar affirmative
26 Congeal
28 Church leader
31 Lascivious
33 River blocker
35 Achy
36 Be a big boy, slangily
38 "Unh-unh"
40 Golfer Michelle
41 Luau strings
43 Gave temporarily
45 Moolah
47 Pitch
48 Scepter
49 Accept as a challenge
54 Packed away
55 Hourglass fillers
56 Insult, slangily
57 Tavern
58 Obliterate
59 Use a taser

DOWN

1 Perch
2 School org.
3 Talk and talk
4 Municipalities
5 Bordered on
6 Leb. neighbor
7 Oscar de la —
8 Discounted
9 Rejects
10 Peevish fit
11 Small barrels
16 Custard ingredient
20 Misfortunes
21 Motion picture
22 Notion
23 Australia, familiarly
27 Light brown
29 New York canal
30 Oboe insert
32 Nobleman
34 Soda fountain orders
37 Read
39 Raspy
42 Sub detector
44 Gallery display
45 Colorless
46 Tittle
50 "CSI" evidence
51 Woodshaping tool
52 Sportage maker
53 Mentalist's claim

Solution time: 26 mins.

S	A	M			N	C		S	O	L	I	D
E	L	I		S	E	A		T	W	I	N	E
R	I	D		M	A	P	L	E	L	E	A	F
I	V	S		S	T	R	U	M				
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P	E	A	L	S				I	N	B	O	X
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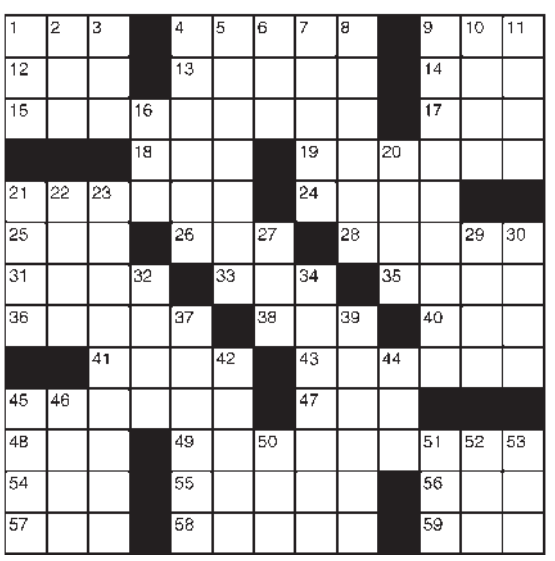
A	R	D	E	N		A	L	F		E	A	R
W	A	D	E	S		R	A	S		R	R	S

Last Friday's Answer 9-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Catherine Zeta-Jones, 48; Will Smith, 49; Heather Locklear, 56; Michael Douglas, 73.

Happy Birthday: You may crave change, but unless it's well-thought-out and executed proficiently, it's best not to venture down that path. Consider the best way to improve your position personally and professionally. Experience and education will be necessary but shouldn't be exclusive to how you move forward. You can ease your stress by being honest and mapping out your plans for the future. Your numbers are 2, 12, 21, 26, 35, 39, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Initiate change by going through the proper channels. Whatever you want can be achieved if you are reasonable and apply practical methods to reach your goals. Opportunity is within reach, so don't ignore the chance to advance. Interviews look promising. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Learn all you can about your options and how best to address the personal issues you have regarding health, appearance and lifestyle. Knowing the best way to make positive changes will ensure that you do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Emotional situations will be difficult to deal with if you aren't completely honest from beginning to end. Leading someone on or pretending to be something you are not will backfire. Be proud of who you are. 3 stars

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* It's OK to be different, but pick and choose where, when and why. It may not go over as well among your peers and colleagues as it does at home with family. Nurture important relationships and build a strong home base. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Get together with the people who share your interests and concerns. Your ability to stabilize a situation that is teetering on shaky ground will put you in charge. A change in direction will lead to higher income and greater respect. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Refuse to be coaxed into a debate that you don't want to have. Arguing will cause an emotional backlash and leave you feeling down. Concentrate on how you look and feel about your accomplishments and strive for perfection. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Learn as you go. Admit to mistakes and ease any tension that mounts due to disagreements. Working with the establishment instead of against it will be to your advantage. Look for loopholes, but don't make a fuss when doing so. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take an interest in what others are doing. Follow through with your promises and redefine what you want to do with the rest of your life. Express your concerns, feelings and intentions. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take note of how you express your thoughts to others, and handle conversations with care. Saying the right thing and sticking to the truth will make a difference to the way you are received. Don't shirk emotional issues. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A steady pace will be necessary to avoid an unwelcome and unexpected turn of events. Be on guard against anyone who tries to push you in one direction or another. Stick to your plan regardless of what others do. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Pay attention to your work and personal finances. Don't take a risk just because someone else does. Do your due diligence and only invest in what will benefit you. A change in a contract or business relationship will help stabilize your future. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Wait and watch. If you make a move prematurely, it will end up costing you emotionally and physically. Partnerships will be on shaky ground if one or both of you lack honesty regarding your feelings or whereabouts. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are carefree, independent and progressive. You are creative and appealing.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2		5				6	4
	6						9	
	3			9	6	8		
7			4				2	5
			6	7	5			
6	9				1			3
		9	7	4			8	
	7						3	
1	8				3		5	

Difficulty Level ★ 9/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2	1	4	6	9	8	7	3	5
8	5	7	1	2	3	4	9	6
9	3	6	5	7	4	1	8	2
1	8	3	9	6	5	2	4	7
6	4	9	7	8	2	5	1	3
5	7	2	4	3	1	8	6	9
7	9	8	2	4	6	3	5	1
4	6	1	3	5	7	9	2	8
3	2	5	8	1	9	6	7	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

GOLF SEASON Solution: 6 letters

C	S	W	A	E	G	A	R	E	V	E	B	P	U	L
L	H	T	A	P	C	H	I	P	P	I	N	G	S	A
U	S	A	R	T	P	U	S	H	R	G	A	D	S	N
B	S	W	M	O	E	O	Ⓖ	D	N	M	I	P	A	O
H	O	G	E	P	K	Ⓡ	I	I	E	V	O	S	R	I
O	R	N	F	R	Ⓘ	E	N	N	O	R	N	A	G	S
U	T	I	O	Ⓟ	C	O	S	T	T	I	K	N	E	S
S	A	N	R	U	O	S	N	O	K	M	A	D	C	E
E	B	I	E	L	E	A	O	S	R	S	E	G	N	F
S	L	D	L	I	D	H	C	E	H	W	R	N	A	O
R	A	A	D	N	S	R	L	C	T	I	B	I	T	R
U	B	D	E	C	A	E	N	T	E	N	P	R	S	P
O	A	T	O	T	A	U	L	O	N	G	R	O	I	L
C	T	R	C	S	P	R	O	S	H	O	P	C	D	A
A	E	H	E	U	C	S	E	F	A	I	R	W	A	Y

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Albatross, Appointment, Attendant, Ballooning, Beverage, Birdie, Break, Caddies, Championship, Chipping, Clubhouse, Coring, Course, Deuce, Dining, Distance, Divot, Fairway, Fescue, Fore, Game, Grass, Grip, Long, Play, Professional, Pro Shop, Punch, Push, Release, Sand, Score, Scratch, Screws, Shoot, Skins, Sport, Strokes, Swing, Water

Last Friday's Answer: Blenders

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Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

General Mechanic (1) - Minimium of 5 years professional experience as general mechanic, repairs and maintains physical structures of the facility, repairs of vehicles, office machines and equipments, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, air condition, and all other equipments of the company. Rate $6.55 to $7.50/hr.

Interested applicants can mail their resume at P.O. Box 7788 SVRB, Saipan MP 96950 or may email to saipan@americopters.com. No phone calls please.

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Strategic Gaming Solution, Inc. dba: Club C has immediate opening for

Cook – Full Time (1)

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Salary Range - $8.00 to $9.00

Deadline for submission: October 5, 2017.
Interested applicants may pick up an application at our HR Office located within Kanoa Resort, Susupe Beach Road from Monday to Friday between the hour of 10:30AM to 5:30PM. Applications must be supported with resume, diploma or certificate and a valid photo I.D.
Applicant must be eligible to work in the U.S.

ACHUGAO SERVICES, LLC
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Job Purpose:
Maximizes return on financial assets by establishing financial policies, procedures, controls, and reporting systems.

Duties:
- Guides financial decisions by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing policies and procedures.
- Protects assets by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing internal controls.
- Monitors and confirms financial condition by conducting audits; providing information to external auditors.
- Prepares budgets by establishing schedules; collecting, analyzing, and consolidating financial data; recommending plans.
- Achieves budget objectives by scheduling expenditures; analyzing variances; initiating corrective actions.
- Provides status of financial condition by collecting, interpreting, and reporting financial data.
- Prepares special reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing information and trends.
- Complies with federal, state, and local legal requirements by studying existing and new legislation; anticipating future legislation; enforcing adherence to requirements; filing financial reports; advising management on needed actions.
- Completes operational requirements by scheduling and assigning employees; following up on work results.
- Maintains financial staff by recruiting, selecting, orienting, and training employees.
- Maintains professional and technical knowledge by attending educational workshops; reviewing professional publications; establishing personal networks; participating in professional societies.
- Protects operations by keeping financial information and plans confidential.
- Prepare income taxes for all entities.
- Prepares monthly financial statements.
- Reviews work of the accounting staff.
- Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related results as needed.

Skills/Qualifications:
- Managing Processes, Financial Software, Developing Standards, Audit, Accounting, Corporate Finance, Tracking Budget Expenses, Financial Skills, Analyzing Information , Developing Budgets, Performance Management.
- Strong analytical and communication skills.
- Knowledge of financial reporting systems preferably Quickbooks.
- Knowledge of Excel.

Employer Preference: Must have own transportation to and from the workplace. US citizen or green card holder preferred. Looking to hire immediately.

Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd., Garapan, Saipan or email to Tania Mesa, HR Manager at: tania.mesa@bccnmi.com. Deadline to submit application will be on Friday, September 29, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

ACHUGAO SERVICES, LLC
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) Bookkeeper

Duties:
- Update and maintain accounts payable and receivables.
- Prepare bank deposits, verify and balance receipts, handle payroll, prepare invoices and keep track of overdue accounts.
- Monitor loans and payments, balance and reconcile billing vouchers, and enter code transactions according to company accounting procedures.
- Maintain general ledger and subsidiary accounts by verifying, allocating, and posting transactions.
- Balance subsidiary accounts by reconciling entries.
- Balance general ledger by preparing a trial balance; reconciling entries.
- Maintain historical records by filing documents and scanning documents to server.
- Prepare financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information and trends.
- Comply with federal, state, and local legal requirements by studying requirements; enforcing adherence to requirements; filing reports; advising management on needed actions.

Skills/Qualifications:
- Employer Preference: Knowledge in Excel, MC Word, Power Point programs. Must have a minimum of two (2) years work experience in accounting. Must have thorough knowledge of QuickBooks Accounting System. Must work with minimal or no supervision. Must have own transportation to and from the workplace. US citizen or green card holder preferred. Looking to hire immediately.

Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd., Garapan, Saipan or email to Tania Mesa, HR Manager at: tania.mesa@bccnmi.com. Deadline to submit application will be on Friday, September 29, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

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Dodgers clinch 5th straight NL West title

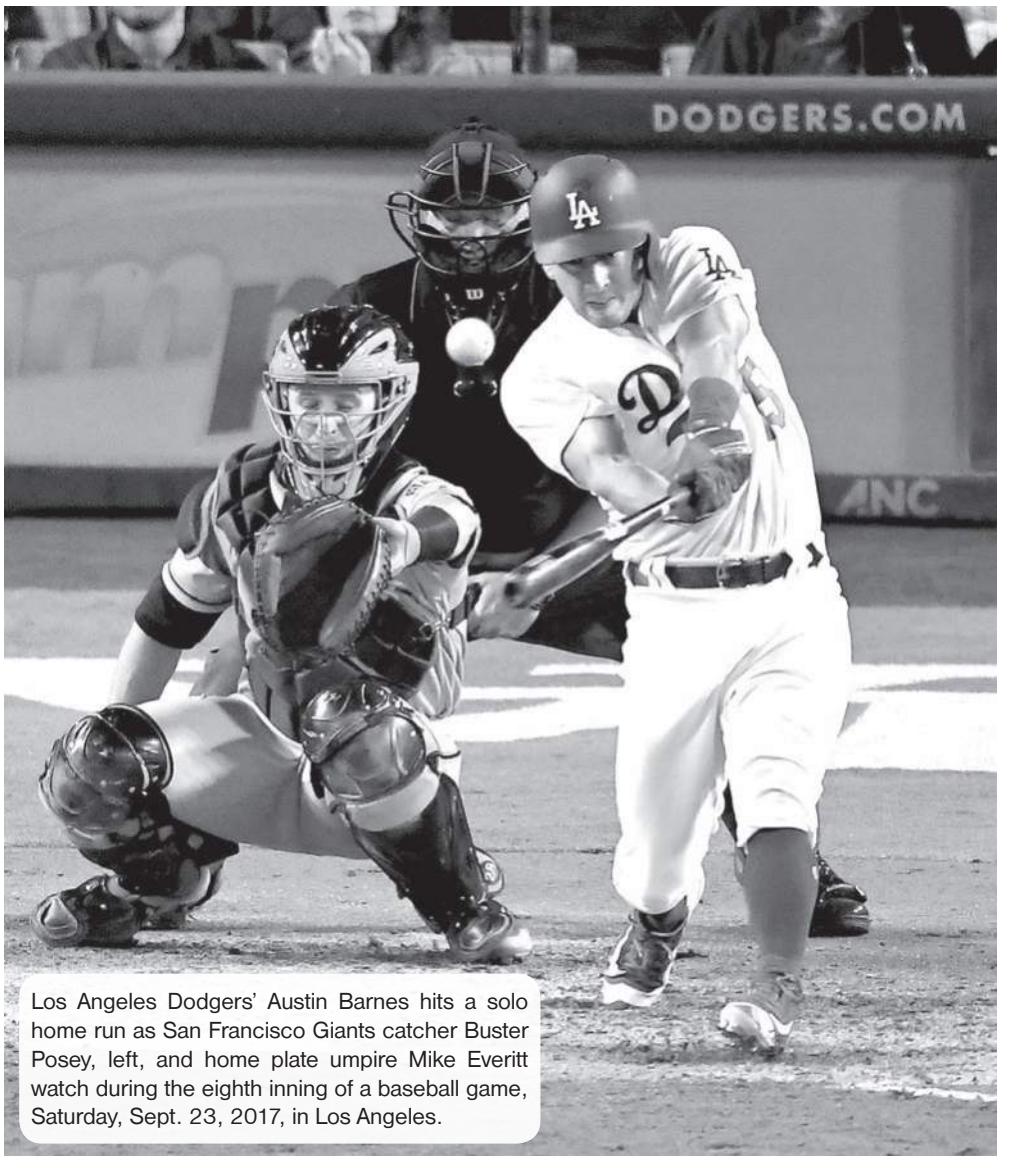
LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Dodgers clinched their fifth straight NL West title, beating the San Francisco Giants 4-2 on Friday night as Cody Bellinger set an NL rookie record with his 39th home run.

Los Angeles will open the NL Division Series at home on Oct. 6. The Dodgers are seeking to reach the World Series for the first time since 1988 under manager Tommy Lasorda, who was on hand at Dodger Stadium to celebrate his 90th birthday.

Bellinger hit a three-run homer in the third off Jeff Samardzija (9-15), topping the NL rookie mark set by Wally Berger in 1930 and matched by Frank Robinson in 1956.

After a record run that saw the Dodgers push their record to 91-36, they had gone just 6-20—including a dismal 1-16 stretch—to make clinching their division more laborious than anticipated. Los Angeles stopped a nine-game home losing streak.

Rich Hill (11-8) allowed one run and five hits in six innings with ninth strikeouts. Pablo Sandoval homered leading off the ninth against Kenley Jansen, who struck out the next three batters for his 40th save in 41 chances.



Los Angeles Dodgers' Austin Barnes hits a solo home run as San Francisco Giants catcher Buster Posey, left, and home plate umpire Mike Everitt watch during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017, in Los Angeles.

Cubs 5, Brewers 4, 10 innings

In Milwaukee, pinch-hitter Tommy La Stella drew a bases-loaded walk off All-Star closer Corey Knebel with one out in the 10th inning, helping the Chicago Cubs beat the Milwaukee Brewers 5-4 on Friday night to tighten their grip on the NL Central.

The Cubs hold a five-game lead with nine days left in the regular season after winning their second straight tense game over the Brewers. Milwaukee dropped into third in the division, 5 1/2 games behind Chicago, after St. Louis beat Pittsburgh.

The Brewers had the tying run at first with one out in the bottom of the 10th, but Eric Sogard was called out at second trying to advance on a ball in the dirt. Shortstop Addison Russell appeared to hold the tag as Sogard's foot lifted off second for a split-second, and the call was confirmed on review.

Mariners 3, Indians 1

In Seattle, Nelson Cruz hit a game-ending two-run homer in the ninth inning, lifting Seattle over Cleveland.

Cruz lined a 2-1 pitch from closer Cody Allen (3-7) out to deep right-center field, snapping Seattle's six-game skid and improving its very slim wild-card hopes. The Mariners are five games behind Minnesota for the last AL playoff spot with eight games remaining.

Cruz also cooled baseball's hottest team. Cleveland lost for the second time since Aug. 23, a span of 29 games that included an historic 22-game winning streak. It ended a franchise-record 14-game road winning streak—the Indians hadn't lost away from home since Aug. 20 at Kansas City.

Cardinals 4, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Randal Grichuk scored after an error by shortstop Jordy Mercer, capping a frantic ninth-rally that lifted surging St. Louis over Pittsburgh.

The playoff-chasing Cardinals won their fourth straight, despite trailing by a run entering the ninth. They're 1 1/2 games behind the Rockies for the final NL wild card.

Stephen Piscotty led off with a double to right against closer Felipe Rivero (5-3), and Jedd Gyorko followed with a pinch-hit RBI single. After Tommy Pham's single, Grichuk pinch-ran for Gyorko at third. He scored when Mercer misplayed Dexter Fowler's sharp groundball.

Rockies 4, Padres 1

In San Diego, Nolan Arenado ended Colorado's scoreless streak at 23 innings with a solo homer, and the Rockies beat San Diego.

Colorado hadn't scored since the eighth inning of a loss to San Francisco on Tuesday night, dropping a pair of shutouts in between. Arenado sparked the Rockies with his 35th homer, and Ian Desmond and Trevor Story also went deep.

Jon Gray (9-4) pitched six innings to win his fourth straight road start, and Colorado stayed 1 1/2 games ahead of the St. Louis Cardinals for the final NL wild card. The Milwaukee Brewers are two games back.

Greg Holland got his 41st save, tying Jose Jimenez's club record from 2002.

Blue Jays 8, Yankees 1

In Toronto, Ryan Goins successfully pulled off a hidden-ball trick and hit his second career grand slam, leading Toronto over Masahiro Tanaka (12-12) and ensuring New York had to wait at least one more day to clinch a playoff berth.

With Todd Frazier on base following a leadoff double in the third, Jose Bautista made a running catch just in front of the right field warning track on Jacoby Ellsbury's one-out drive. Goins caught Bautista's throw while standing near second base, then pretended to toss the ball to pitcher Marco Estrada (10-8) while slipping in into his glove.

Goins turned his back to Frazier, who had returned to the base, and when Frazier briefly lifted his left foot off the base, Goins tagged him on the left thigh.

Astros 3, Angels 0

In Houston, Justin Verlander pitched one-hit ball over seven innings to remain perfect with Houston and Yuli Gurriel hit a three-run homer to propel the Astros.

Verlander (14-8) walked two and struck out six to improve to 4-0 since being traded from Detroit on Aug. 31.

Gurriel connected off Yusmeiro Petit (5-2) on his 18th home run to give Houston a 3-0 lead in the seventh.

Chris Devenski pitched a perfect eighth before Ken Giles allowed a hit and a walk with no outs before settling down to finish the inning and pick up his 33rd save.

Diamondbacks 13, Marlins 11

In Phoenix, Chris Iannetta homered twice and drove in a career-high eight runs, and Arizona outslugged Miami.

J.D. Martinez and Christian Walker also homered for the Diamondbacks, who can clinch their first postseason berth in six years with a win Saturday and a loss by St. Louis.

Arizona erased a 9-7 deficit with five runs in the sixth.

Walker got his first career pinch-homer off Jarlin Garcia to make it 9-8. David Peralta reached on an error before Dustin McGowan (8-2) struck out A.J. Pollock. But Paul Goldschmidt walked and Martinez reached on an infield single ahead of Iannetta, who homered onto the walkway above the centerfield fence to put the Diamondbacks ahead 12-9.

Twins 7, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Max Kepler and Brian Dozier homered, Byron Buxton had three hits and playoff-chasing Minnesota beat Detroit.

Buxton's two-run double in the fourth put the Twins ahead to stay against a Detroit team that announced before the game that manager Brad Ausmus will not be back in 2018.

Minnesota came into the night leading the race for the American League's second wild card by 2 + games over Texas and the Los Angeles Angels.

Kyle Gibson (12-10) allowed three runs and five hits in seven innings for the Twins. He struck out six and walked two.

Daniel Norris (4-8) allowed five runs and seven hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Athletics 4, Rangers 1

In Oakland, rookie Matt Olson hit his sixth home run in seven games, a second-inning drive off Nick Martinez that helped Oakland damage Texas' playoff hopes.

Olson homered following a leadoff walk to Khris Davis, his 13th home run in September and his 16th in his last 23 games.

Shin-Soo Choo hit his 21st home run for Texas, which has lost six of its last seven at Oakland.

Martinez (3-7) allowed four runs—three earned—and five hits in six innings. He is winless in six starts and four relief appearances since June 25.

Kendall Graveman (6-4) gave up one run, six hits and three walks in seven innings as Oakland won its fifth straight, and Blake Treinen retired three batters for his 10th save.

Red Sox 5, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Rafael Devers hit a three-run homer and Boston extended its AL East lead to four games by overcoming Scooter Gennett's fourth grand slam of the season.

Boston added to its lead with the help of the Yankees' loss at Toronto. The Red Sox have won 12 of 15, keeping the Yankees at bay while moving a season-high 25 games over .500 (89-64).

Rick Porcello gave up Gennett's fourth grand slam—a Reds' season record—in the first inning. He lasted a season-low four innings, turning a 5-4 lead over to the bullpen. Porcello has lost 17 games—most in the majors—after winning 22 last year along with the AL Cy Young Award.

Devers hit his shot off Sal Romano (5-7). David Price (6-3) got the victory in relief.

Mets 7, Nationals 6

In New York, Travis d'Arnaud hit two home runs and New York ended a three-game skid, rallying past a watered-down Washington lineup.

Nationals manager Dusty Baker said he needed to "give my big boys much needed rest" with the playoffs nearing, and not a single regular started for the NL East champions. Star Daniel Murphy pinch hit in the eighth and flied out.

Nori Aoki had three hits for the Mets, including a go-ahead double in the sixth inning off Joe Blanton (2-4). Chasen Bradford (2-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win.

White Sox 7, Royals 6

In Chicago, Matt Davidson drove in three runs with his 26th homer and a double, Yoan Moncada hit a two-run drive and Chicago overcame a four-run deficit to beat Kansas City.

The Royals dropped 4+ games behind Minnesota for the second AL wild card with nine games left. Jason Hammel (8-13) allowed seven runs and eight hits in 3 1/3 innings.

White Sox rookie Reynaldo Lopez (3-3) allowed six runs—two earned—and 10 hits over 6 1/3 innings to win his third straight start. Juan Minaya pitched a scoreless ninth for his sixth save.

Rays 8, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Wilson Ramos hit his third career grand slam, Evan Longoria also went deep and Tampa Bay throttled Ubaldo Jimenez and Baltimore.

Alex Cobb (12-10) earned his career-high 12th win for the Rays, who interrupted a 4-9 slide and kept alive their slim playoff hopes.

Jimenez (6-11) gave up six runs and eight hits in three innings. He was booed lustily by the home fans after each Tampa Bay home run.

Braves 7, Phillies 2

In Atlanta, Kurt Suzuki homered twice, Nick Markakis drove in three runs and Atlanta beat Philadelphia.

Sean Newcomb (4-8) won his second straight start, allowing two runs in 5 1/3 innings.

Atlanta scored five runs in the first off Ben Lively (3-7) on Ozzie Albies' RBI single, Markakis' two-run single and Suzuki's two-run homer.

Trump comments on Curry, NFL protests anger athletes

AP

Golden State Warriors Stephen Curry takes questions from the media after their NBA basketball practice in Oakland, Calif., Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017. President Donald Trump doubled down on denouncing protests by NFL players and rescinded NBA star Stephen Curry's White House invitation on Saturday, a series of tweets that quickly inflamed football and basketball stars and even prompted LeBron James to call the president a "bum."

SOMERSET, N.J. (AP)— President Donald Trump denounced protests by NFL players and rescinded a White House invitation for NBA champion Stephen Curry in a two-day rant that targeted top professional athletes and brought swift condemnation Saturday from league executives and star players alike.

Wading into thorny issues of race and politics, Trump's comments in a Friday night speech and a series of Saturday tweets drew sharp responses from some of the nation's top athletes, with LeBron James calling the president a "bum." Hours later, Major League Baseball saw its first player take a knee during the national anthem.

Trump started by announcing that Curry, the popular two-time MVP for the Golden State Warriors, would not be welcome at the White House for the commemorative visit traditionally made by championship teams: "Going to the White House is considered a great honor for a championship team. Stephen Curry is hesitating, therefore invitation is withdrawn!"

Later, Trump reiterated what he said at a rally in Alabama the previous night—that NFL players who kneel for the national anthem should be fired, and called on NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to tell them to stand.

The Warriors said it was made clear to them that they were not welcome at the White House.

Curry had said he did not want to go anyway, but the Warriors had not made a collective decision before Saturday—and had planned to discuss it in the morning before the president's tweet, to which coach Steve Kerr said : "Not surprised. He was going to break up with us before we could break up with him."

Others had far stronger reactions.

"U bum @StephenCurry30 already said he ain't going!" James tweeted in a clear message to the president—a post that Twitter officials said was quickly shared many more times than any other he's sent. "So therefore ain't no invite. Going to White House was a great honor until you showed up!"

Curry appreciated James' strong stance.

"That's a pretty strong statement," Curry said. "I think it's bold, it's courageous for any guy to speak up, let alone a guy that has as much to lose as LeBron does and other notable figures in the league. We all have to kind of stand as one the best we can."

Curry added that he doesn't believe Trump "respects the majority of Americans in this country."

James also released a video Saturday, saying Trump has tried to divide the country. "He's now using sports as the platform to try to divide us," James said. "We all know how much sports brings us together. ... It's not something I can be quiet about."

The Warriors said that when they go to Washington this season they will instead "celebrate equality, diversity and inclusion — the values that we embrace as an organization." General manager Bob Myers said he was surprised by the invitation being pulled, and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said he was disappointed that the Warriors won't be at the White House.

"The White House visit should be something that is celebrated," Myers said. "So we want to go to Washington, D.C., and do something to commemorate kind of who we are as an organization, what we feel, what we represent and at the same time spend our energy on that. Instead of looking backward, we want to look forward."

Added Kerr after his team's first practice of the season, "These are not normal times."

Bruce Maxwell, an African-American player for the Oakland Athletics, became the first major league baseball player to kneel during the national anthem. Teammate Mark Canha, who is white, put his right hand on one of Maxwell's shoulders during Saturday's anthem. The Athletics released a statement saying they "respect and support all of our players' constitutional rights and freedom of expression."

In New York City's Central Park, musician Stevie Wonder declared, "Tonight, I take a knee for America. Both knees!" as he knelt on stage at the Global Citizen Festival.

As a candidate and as president, Trump's approach has at times seemed to inflame racial tensions in a deeply divided country while emboldening groups long in the shadows. Little more than a month ago, Trump came under fire for his response to a white supremacists' protest in Charlottesville, Virginia. Trump also pardoned Joe Arpaio, the former sheriff of Arizona's Maricopa County, who had been found guilty of defying a judge's order to stop racially profiling Latinos.

Trump's latest entry into the intersection of sports and politics started in Alabama on Friday night, when he said NFL players who refused to stand for "The Star-Spangled Banner" are exhibiting a "total disrespect of our heritage."

Several NFL players, starting last season with then-San Francisco quarterback Colin Kaepernick, have either knelt, sat or raised fists during the anthem to protest police treatment of blacks and social injustice. Last week at NFL games, four players sat or knelt during the anthem, and two raised fists while others stood by the protesters in support.

"That's a total disrespect of everything that we stand for," Trump said, encouraging owners to act. He added, "Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, you'd say, 'Get that son of a bitch off the field right now. Out! He's fired."

On Saturday, Trump echoed his stance.

"If a player wants the privilege of making millions of dollars in the NFL, or other leagues, he or she should not be allowed to disrespect our Great American Flag (or Country) and should stand for the National Anthem," Trump tweeted. "If not, YOU'RE FIRED. Find something else to do!"

There are 14 NFL games Sunday, including one in London. And how players act during the anthem will certainly be closely watched at each of those games.

"You have a chance to do something really great," music mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs told players in a tweet.

Tampa Bay receiver Desean Jackson, whose team plays at Minnesota, tweeted: "I definitely will be making a statement no disrespect to our military of service But we have to stick together as people !! Unity."

Trump has enjoyed strong support from NFL owners, with at least seven of them donating $1 million each to Trump's inaugural committee. They include New England Patriots owner Bob Kraft, whom Trump considers a friend.

Goodell strongly backed the players and criticized Trump for "an unfortunate lack of respect for the NFL" while several team owners issued similar statements. New York Giants owners John Mara and Steve Tisch said the comments were inappropriate and offensive. Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross, who has supported the players who have knelt, said the country "needs unifying leadership right now, not more divisiveness," and San Francisco 49ers CEO Jed York ripped Trump's comments as "callous."

Trump was undeterred. Hours after Goodell's comments, Trump said the commissioner had "put out a statement trying to justify the total disrespect certain players show to our country. Tell them to stand!"

Plenty of other current and former stars from across sports weighed in Saturday, as did the National Basketball Players Association, which defended its members' "free speech rights" against those seeking to "stifle" them.

Knicks agree to trade Carmelo to Thunder

NEW YORK (AP)—Carmelo Anthony won't be at Knicks training camp after all. He'll be in Oklahoma City, joining Russell Westbrook and Paul George in a loaded lineup.

The Knicks agreed to trade Anthony to the Thunder on Saturday, saving themselves a potentially awkward reunion next week with the player they'd been trying to deal since last season.

New York will get Enes Kanter, Doug McDermott and a draft pick, a person with knowledge of the deal said. The person spoke with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade had not been announced.

The Knicks had said just a day earlier that they expected Anthony to be there when they reported for camp Monday. But it was clear they didn't want him anymore and he no longer wanted to be in New York, where he arrived with so much hype that was never fulfilled in February 2011.

He rarely had a championship core around him in New York but jumps right into one in Oklahoma City along with Westbrook, the NBA MVP, and fellow All-Star George, who was acquired from Indiana this summer.

Anthony will see his old teammates soon: The Knicks open the regular season at Oklahoma City on Oct. 19.

Anthony agreed to waive his no-trade clause to complete the deal, which was first reported by The Vertical.

Phil Jackson spent the latter part of his time in New York making it clear he wanted to move Anthony. But a deal was difficult because the 33-year-old forward has two years and about $54 million left on his contract, along with the ability to decline any trade.

He had long maintained that he wanted to stay in New York, but the constant losing and a chance to play with a talented lineup convinced him it was finally time to go.

After making the postseason each of his first 10 seasons, he has been on the sidelines the last four years and said at the end of last season his priority was a chance to win. He wouldn't have that in New York, where the Knicks are emphasizing youth and have little proven talent with which to surround Anthony.

But he is close with Westbrook and George and should fit in nicely. He can possibly settle into the spot-up shooter role he's played in the Olympics, where he's won a record three gold medals and is the career scoring leader for the U.S. men.

Destroyers rule Tuesday billiards

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Chow Time-Blue Haus Destroyers defeated the 9 Eleven Titans in the finals, 9-5, to rule the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League last week at the latter's home turf in San Jose.

Roman Rodriguez, Gian Flores, Nolan Cultura, Cezar Sangalang, Rico Montano, and Jeff Garcia alternated in securing the title for the Destroyers, as they beat their counterparts in the Singles and Masters 8-Ball events. Shane Quitugua, Pat Cepeda, Joe Cepeda, and Simon Kapileo earned the wins for the Titans with the former getting two by downing Rodriguez and Montano in the race-to-nine contest.

The Destroyers, who finished fourth in the regular season and scored an upset over the top-seeded 9 Eleven Docomo Hustlers in the knockout semifinals, proved to be steadier down the stretch to end up on top.

Tasha's Str8 Black Ball, the second placer after the elimination round and was also ousted by the 9 Eleven Titans, bagged the third place with a 9-6 decision over the Hustlers.

In the Thursday League playoffs, the 9 Eleven MJD Warriors moved to the championship match after a 9-3 win over Tasha's Wild Bills and will face the 9 Eleven Titans II.

The Titans II earned the right to face the Warriors after squeezing out a 9-8 victory against the Chow Time 8 Black Ball with Matsunaga and Quitugua securing the win by topping the duo of Mervin Sahagun and Jeff Gayas in the Partner's 8 Ball.

The finals between the Warriors and Titans II and the Black Ball-Wild Bills battle for third will be played this Thursday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chow Time-Blue Haus Destroyers players are all smiles after ruling the Saipan Billiards Association-Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League.

Tropang Ridhors routs Green Archers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tropang Ridhors coasted to a 90-71 victory over the Green Archers in the curtain-raiser in the 2nd Invitational IT&E/Blue Haus Friendly Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Tropang Ridhors flaunted its offensive firepower in its debut game resulting to a 19-rout of the clueless Green Archers. Four Tropang Ridhors players combined for more than half of the team's production for the easy win. Mervin Sahagun led the scoring surge with his 23 points, while Junar Guiab contributed 18, and Ken Viray and Joy Dayrit tallied 16 each. Tropang Ridhors' key players could have poured in more points had they not opted to return to the bench at the halfway mark of the one-sided game to give their other teammates the opportunity to play.

As for the Green Archers, Frank Ferrer ended up as the team's top scorer with his 25 markers, but his multiple baskets in every quarter failed to inspire his teammates to do the same. He had 9 markers in the first quarter where the Green Archers were still very match in the game down by only 4, 21-25.

However, Tropang Ridhors managed to increase the lead to double digits in the second canto, 49-33, as its main gunners teamed up in the breakaway.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tropang Ridhors' Reijie Yoshisawa, left, takes off for a shot in front of the Green Archers' Rey Pestillos during the fourth quarter of their game in the IT&E/Blue Haus caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Meanwhile, in other results in the opening week of the IT&E and Blue Haus-sponsored league, the Silencer split its first two games, beating Gold Ballers in its debut, 76-71, before bowing to Green Minded in last Wednesday's tiff, 58-89.

Green Minded improved to a 2-0 record as it also prevailed in its first match against Team Sawi, 86-62.

First Game

Tropang Ridhors 90— Sahagun 23, Guiab 18, Viray 16, Dayrit 16, Morales 10, Reijie Yoshisawa 6, Claveria 2.

Green Archers 71 — Frank Ferrer 25, Demapan 15, Enriquez 13, Danilog 9, Rotap 4, Arreza 3, Tolentino 2, Baterina 2, Pestillos 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-21, 49-33, 76-55, 90-71.

Second Game

Green Minded 89 — De Vero 33, Dela Cruz 17, Armia 15, Santos 11, Itaas 8, Tibayan 4, Vergara 2.

Silencer 58 — Fitial 18, Usi 13, Morales 9, Perez 8, Estores 4, Culala 2, Zapata 2, Sevilla 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-10, 48-22, 64-41, 89-58.

FC-2

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rousing start this season.

In other results in Division A, Paire Football Club also booked an easy debut win last week after hammering Kanoa FC-1, 9-3.

Guine Borja powered Paire to the lopsided triumph after firing six goals. Jerlyn Castillo was the second player to score in Paire's debut win after making a hat trick, while Kanoa FC-1 got two of its three goals from Paulynn Joyce.

Meanwhile, in Division B, only two matches were played in the opening week with Shirley's FC and Paire FC defeating their respective opponents.

In the first game, Paire shut down Kanoa, 5-0. Anisa Villagomez knocked in a pair of goals for Paire, which drew one apiece from Erin Frink, Aaliyah Indalecio, and Nadia Murphy.

In the second match, Shirley's also blanked its foe MY-Pros, 2-0. Marilou Arriola and Stephanie Lumbad recorded one goal each for the winning squad.

Shirley's will try to go for victory No. 2 in Division B when it plays KFC tonight at 8:30pm. Two more matches will take place today with MY-Pros battling Paire in the first tiff at 6:30pm and Kanoa-1 dueling Shirley's in the Division A game at 7:30pm.

In related stories, the 2017 Dove Women's Masters Fall League kicked off yesterday at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field.

A triple-header was set in the opening week with Kanoa FC meeting Topnotch in the first match, Matansa challenging TanHoldings in the second, and MPU 1 and 2 squaring off in the third.

SOFA

From Page 28

lowing it up with a two-run shot for a 16-8 count. Iguel got the third out against Audie Maratita.

The Kings came away empty-handed at the top of the sixth, while Akkari touched home plate thrice in the bottom of the inning, which was the last time the latter scored for a 16-11 tally. The Kings scored twice at the top of the seventh and the team's celebration began as Iguel preserved the win with a 1-2-3 inning in the bottom half.

Akkari went home with $400, while Sweet Rolls came in third for $200 after bowing to the eventual champions, 18-8, in their semifinal match in the loser's bracket. Akkari went undefeated before the title showdown, beating Team Dave Again, 17-5; Sweet Rolls, 16-6; and Sofa Kings, 13-7, to earn the first finals berth.

Sofa Kings' road to the finals featured a 12-9 victory over Hellafefaded; a 24-16 decision against the C.K. Bears; and a 15-5 triumph over Soul-Lit before dropping their first match to Akkari to be relegated to the loser's bracket.

Lamarc Iguel, Nokki Saralu, Jesus Iguel, Angel Falig Jr., Juan Iguel, Jun Palacios, Mike Iguel, Eric Palacios, John Tudela, Vince Torres, Jia Kapileo Nish Mario, Tyrone Omar, Jeremy Atalig, and Benjamin Jones Jr. joined Luis Iguel Jr. on the Sofa Kings' lineup that was sponsored by Melina and Manny Salas.

The Homeland Security Emergency Management organized the tournament with Joey Dela Cruz as coordinator. He thanked all the partners, volunteers, teams, and the fans that came out to watch the games and enjoy the other activities on that day.

Imperial Pacific International-Corporate Social Responsibility team, TanHoldings, Saipan Apparel, Ayuda Network, Bud Light-MARPAC, Northern Marianas College, KKMP, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services were the tournament's partners.

"Aside from the tournament, it was also a Family Fun Day where we gave away cotton candies, popcorns, and snow cones not only to the kids but to all who joined us today [Saturday]," said Dela Cruz.

"An art café was set up for the kids where they made paintings and brought home their works. We also held games for the kids and adults and we gave away preparedness items like hydro flasks, gas gallons, water, beach chairs, tumblers, and flashlights."

Dela Cruz added that they look forward to making the tournament a bigger event in September 2018.

Team Angel, Team Jeff Diaz, Team Jada, Mamaaw, and Team EOC were the other participating squads.

PROMOTION

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"Some people are intimidated in trying weightlifting. Every sport is hard that's why you need to learn and train, which would help you to get better."

"Hopefully, this tournament would open the door for others to join us. The main goal is to promote our sport," added Santos, who settled for a silver medal in the last Micro Games.

"Our biggest challenge right now is a place to train and equipment. If we get our own place, a lot of people would be more interested. Weightlifting equipment is also not that expensive," said Barnhouse.

"We are really hoping to get the youth involved. That's our target since we don't want to let the sport die. We want others, especially the youth, to be the next generation that would replace us. We're willing to pass on what we have learned," added San Nicolas.

Leo Apelo is another CNMI weightlifter who finished second in the 85kg division in Pohnpei with lifts of 141kg in the Clean and Jerk, and 100kg in the Snatch. His best records are 116kg in the Snatch, and 150kg in the Clea and Jerk. Santos' best lifts a 110kg in the Snatch, and 136kg in the Clean and Jerk, while San Nicolas had 113kg and 139kg. Their last tournament was the Guam Open in January this year and they each placed first in their weight classes. The three are also expected to represent the CNMI in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu this December.

2nd Annual Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Marianas Tourism Educational Council chair Vicky Benavente, second left, joins board members, from left, Glenn Policare of Kanoa Resort, Wendi Herring of Fiesta Resort & Spa-Saipan, James Nelson, and Marianas Visitors Authority projects manager Martin Duenas for a group photo after the awards banquet of the 2nd Annual Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament held early this month at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Glenn Policare, from left, interviews C Flight champion Dave Apatang as the representative of runner-up Tommy Kim and third placer Paul Manglona look on.

Harry Nakamura, left, accepts the A Flight check on behalf of Luis Tilipao and is joined in the photo by runner-up Sung Soo Lim.

From left, Ladies division champion Chang Hee Yoo, second placer Gil An Yoon, and third finisher Shiori Onue are all smiles after getting their prizes.

From left, Seniors champion Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, runner-up Alex Tudela, and third placer Tars Olopai gather for a group photo.

Legislative Bureau director Antonio P. Sablan surveys the course layout before teeing off.

From left, B Flight winner Tony Guerrero, No. 2 Patrick C. Guerrero, and third placer Yasuhiro Sato pose with their prizes.

Former Senate president Pete Reyes, right, checks the direction of his tee shot.

Dodgers clinch 5th straight NL West title

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Sofa Kings reign in softball tourney

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Sofa Kings etched their name in a perpetual trophy as they were declared inaugural champions of the 2017 Commonwealth Preparedness Month Softball Championship-Family Fun Day held last Saturday at the Capital Hill Softball Field.

JON PEREZ
Sofa Kings members join tournament organizers for a group photo after winning the inaugural Commonwealth Preparedness Month Softball Tournament held last Saturday at the Capital Hill Softball Field.

The Kings, who had to earn a finals berth in the loser's bracket, overcame the twice-to-beat advantage of Akkari to clinch the perpetual trophy and the $600 top prize that went with it. The eventual champions forced a winner-take-all match after a 17-13 win in Game 1 and then wrapped up the title following an 18-11 victory in the deciding Game 2.

Intermittent rain delayed the matches, including the finals between the top-seeded Akkari and the Kings. Game 2 of the championship stretched up to almost 10pm as volunteers, on several occasions, had to bring out the tarpaulin to cover the field.

In the you-or-me showdown, the Kings erupted for 11 runs at the top of the first inning to establish a comfortable lead against the previously undefeated Team Akkari.

Akkari answered with three runs each at the bottom of the first and third, but the Kings added five more in a three inning stretch—from the third to fifth—for a 16-6 lead and moved three outs away from ending the match via the 10-run mercy rule.

Pitcher Luis Iguel Jr. got the first two outs, forcing Daisy Kaipat to ground out to first and Virgil Secharmidal to an infield fly. Kyle Kaipat singled against Iguel to keep Akarri's hopes alive with Marvin Kaipat fol-

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Promotion of weightlifting in CNMI eyed

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

CNMI weightlifters are hoping an upcoming tournament will help bring awareness of the sport to the community so they could attract more athletes and sponsors.

Veteran lifters David Barnhouse Jr., Ray Santos, and Angel San Nicolas will be competing in the tournament set on Oct. 7 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The tournament begins with a weigh-in at 8am, while competition starts at 10am with Olympic style lifts of Snatch, and the Clean and Jerk. Tournament fee is only $5 for each competitor, while organizers are inviting the public to watch the event, which is free admission.

Barnhouse will be competing in the 105kg category with Santos at 62kg and San Nicolas at the 94kg weight division. The three are training separately.

"We currently have no permanent place to train. Either we train at home or at Latte Built. We follow our own program and watch some of the techniques through YouTube," said Barnhouse, who won a gold medal in the 2014 Pohnpei Micronesian Games.

"We don't have a coach to help us with the training. Currently, we're only four since some of the people changed their minds and stopped training," added Barnhouse, whose best lifts were 137kg in the Snatch, and 165kg in the Clean and Jerk

Santos added they hope to encourage more people to try weightlifting with next month's tournament.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ray Santos is seen in this file photo competing in the 2014 Micronesian Games.

Back-to-back for Kanoa FC-2

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club-2 was perfect in the opening week of the 2017 Dove Women's Fall Futsal League, getting a pair of wins at the TSL Sports Complex.

Kanoa FC-2 first crushed the CNMI U16 Developmental Team last Monday, 13-1, and then topped Shirley's FC last Wednesday, 5-2, to take the early lead in the five-team field of Division A. Paire FC and Kanoa FC-1 are the other squads entered in the group.

Krizel Tuason combined for five goals in Kanoa FC-1's two victories, while Britanny Wally contributed four. Chloe Salvosa and Janelle Chognaki added three and two goals, respectively, to give Kanoa FC-2 a

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kanoa Football Club-2's Janelle Chojnacki steps in to kick the ball out during their game against Shirley's FC, while teammate Chevy Kate Alipio looks on.